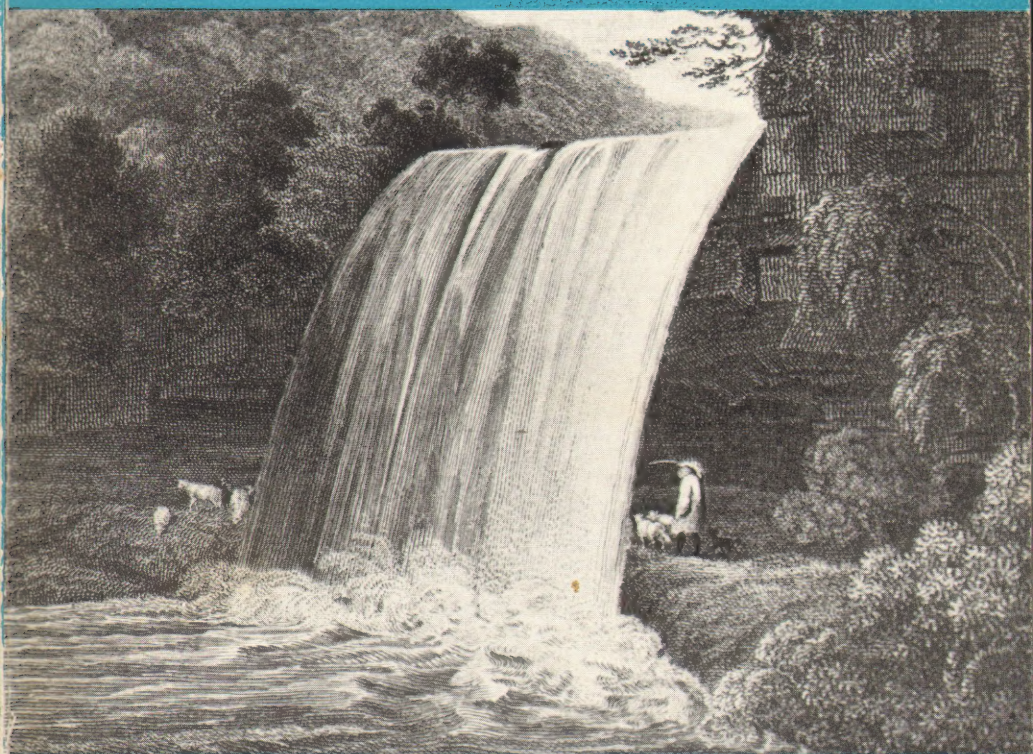


# BRECON BEACONS

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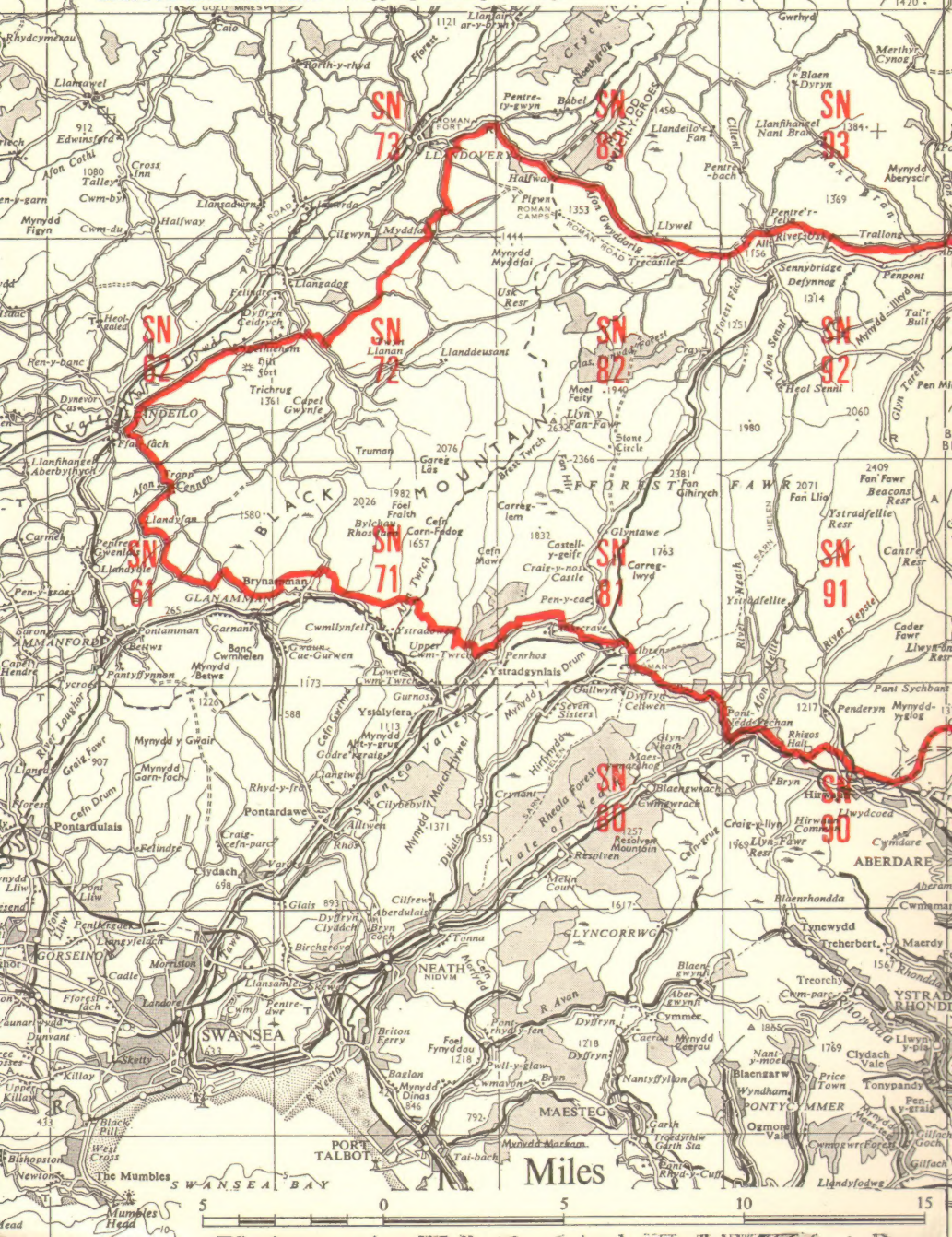


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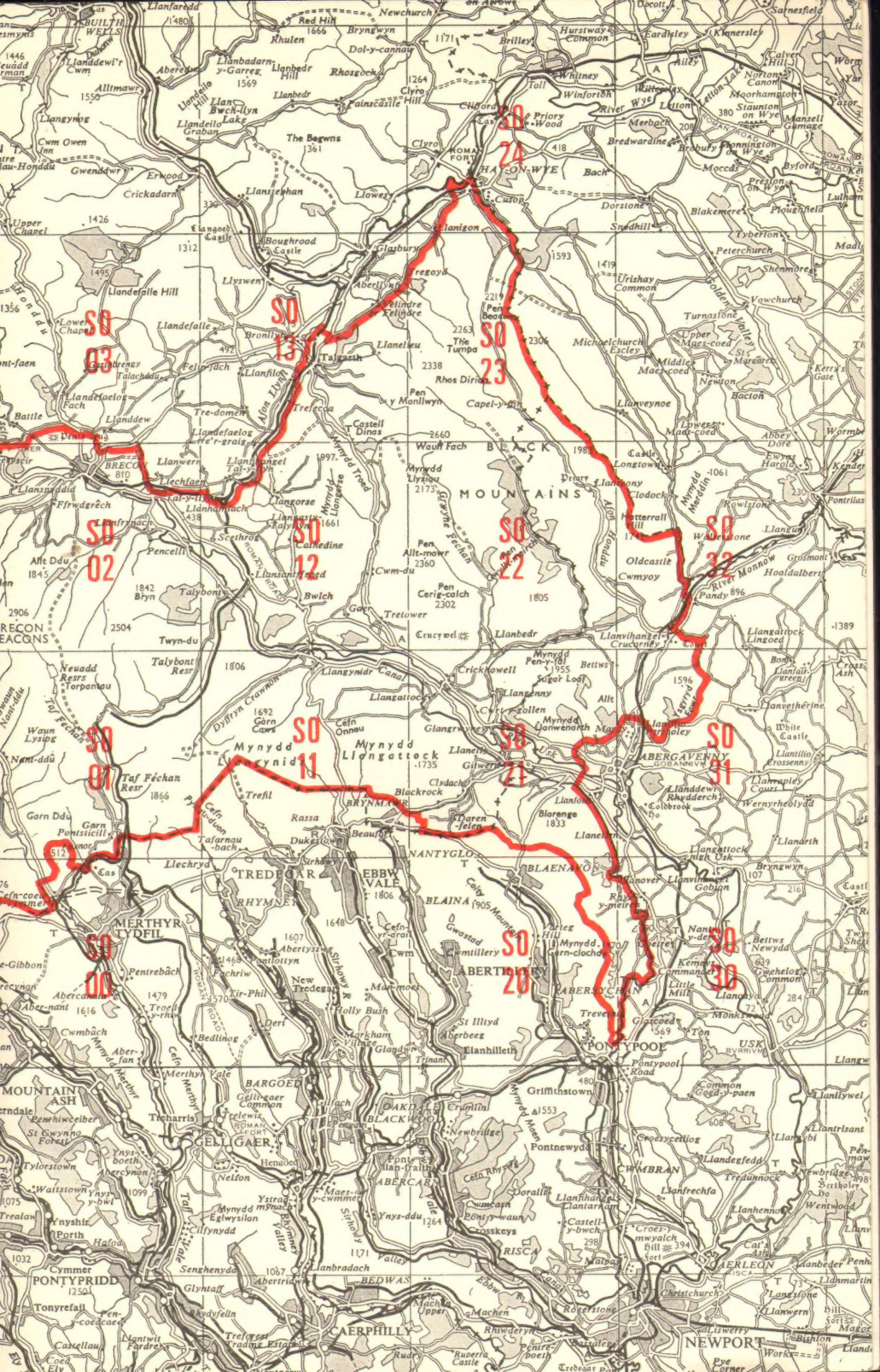
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# BRECON BEACONS

NATIONAL PARK GUIDE No. 5

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Edited by  
Margaret Davies, M.A., Ph.D.

Issued for the  
National Parks Commission

Reissued for the  
Countryside Commission

LONDON  
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1967



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editorship of Margaret Davies*

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## PREFACE

IT gives me particular pleasure to write a preface for this guide to the Brecon Beacons National Park, since it has been edited by Mrs. Elwyn Davies, one of my three Welsh colleagues on the National Parks Commission and a most knowledgeable contributor to our deliberations.

This is the fifth of the National Park guides promoted by the National Parks Commission. Volumes on Dartmoor, Snowdonia, the Peak District, and the North York Moors have already appeared, and volumes on the Lake District, Exmoor and Northumberland are in hand.

The Commission hope that this series of scholarly and authoritative handbooks will encourage country-lovers to come to the National Parks, and, when they come, to see, with a sensitive eye, the landscape as it is today, to understand the processes by which it acquired its present characteristic quality, and to be conscious of the need to care lovingly for it.

The Brecon Beacons National Park is, perhaps, at the present stage, under rather less imminent pressure from developments and other threats than are some other National Parks. But those who administer it are, I know, looking to the future. Change in some degree and in some places there must inevitably be; but with care and skill the landscape can still be preserved as a living and a gracious thing, and it is our duty, for the sake of our successors, to see that this is what we hand down to them.

Readers of this guide-book will find a wealth of information in each of its various chapters. They will, I am sure, pay heed to the gentle admonition about public behaviour in the countryside which Mrs. Davies has included in the introduction. But I hope that they will also try to see this National Park, and indeed all National Parks, in the context of our explosively changing society, and to think how best we can hold or shape them in the future.

STRANG

*January 1966*



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We wish to express our thanks to Mr. G. R. Versey of the Department of Geography, University College, London, for preparing the maps, and the drawings for Figs. 4 and 6. The latter is after a drawing by Mr. H. R. W. Herbert from specimens in the National Museum of Wales.

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## A NOTE ON PLACE-NAMES

The official name of the Park is Brecon Beacons National Park, or in Welsh, Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog. The largest medieval territorial unit in it was the Lordship of Brecon. Otherwise, in this guide, Brecon refers to the town of Brecon (Aberhonddu). The county's official spelling, Breconshire, is used throughout. There are several variants, e.g. the Welsh form, Brycheiniog, which was the name of the pre-Norman principedom; Brecknock, its nearest English equivalent; and Brecknockshire, which is obsolete except for judicial purposes. On current Ordnance Survey maps the Black Mountain scarp is divided into Bannau Sir Gaer and Bannau Brycheiniog. The latter usage is confusing and locally Carmarthen Fan and Brecknock Fan are used for these parts of the crest line. A note on Welsh forms of place-names used in Chapter 9 (and throughout the guide) is appended to page 57.

# I

## *Introduction*

by THE EDITOR

THE Brecon Beacons National Park, designated in 1957, covers 381 square miles in Breconshire, 87 square miles in Carmarthenshire and 51 square miles in Monmouthshire. It has great beauty and great variety of scene; its thinly peopled red sandstone mountains and moorlands, and its limestone foothills and crags, are cut by broad lush valleys which shelter villages and market towns, or by deep wooded gorges. It adjoins populous coalfield valleys, heavily scarred by industry, and eight roads run across it from them. Roads up the Wye and Usk valleys bring in visitors from the Midlands and south-east England. It offers its visitors a peaceful, largely unspoilt and well-tended countryside. This guide is intended to help them care for and understand its landscape. The present scene provides keys to past history, be it geological, human, or biological history. The authors have attempted to provide some of the keys.

Only the higher mountain tops and steep scarp faces of the Park have truly natural landscapes. Elsewhere, for 5,000 years, man and his animals have been taming and altering the landscape. The Park is part of upland Wales, whose wealth is its flocks and grass; it is primarily a farming area and its villages and small towns house or serve the farming community. Tourism is a secondary land use and must accommodate itself to the primary, agricultural, use of the land. There is a vast acreage of common grazing land in the Park, notably in Mynydd Du (the Carmarthenshire Black Mountain), in the Black Mountains of Breconshire and Monmouthshire, and above all, in and around the Brecon Beacons. Breconshire has over 150,000 acres of common grazings, the highest total of any Welsh county. These commons provide fine sweeps of open country for the enjoyment of visitors. Motorists picnic in fine weather along their road verges, but many more sheep, cattle and ponies feed on them in all weathers. For centuries farmers from many parts of the Park have sent flocks there and the commons are a valued supplement to the enclosed farmland. Below the common mountain grazings are upland farms which concentrate on livestock rearing and send their lambs and cattle to the lowlands for fattening. The richer valley land along the Towy and Usk supports milk and beef



herds. On the lower hillsides such as the southward-facing slopes of the Usk valley and around Talgarth, there are mixed farms with more arable land.

Many upland farms, where higher rainfall, steep slopes, and leaner soils make farming more precarious, have gone out of use in the past century. Upland farms and their stock are very vulnerable to the thoughtlessness of visitors. The ruined farmsteads of the Black Mountains and Mynydd Du should remind them not to add man-made hazards to the problems posed by nature. The work of those who farm by the main valley roads is carried on under less harsh conditions, but litter, unfastened field gates and damage to crops and hedges, sometimes dangerous and always exasperating, will make the work more difficult.

Nearly all visitors to the Brecon Beacons National Park leave its lovely mountains and valleys unblemished. Most find its beauty memorable and many of us who live in industrialized South Wales return frequently to its solitudes. This guide may be read by visitors from farther afield when planning a summer holiday in the Park. Perhaps they will glimpse in its pages something of the words of Henry Vaughan, who lived by the Usk between 1622 and 1695:

‘So have I known some beauteous Paisage rise  
In suddain flowres and arbours to my Eies,  
And in the depth and dead of winter bring  
To my Cold thoughts a lively sense of spring.’

The Brecon Beacons National Park is still a beauteous paysage. It is also a very interesting one and it is hoped that this guide will bring in visitors whose enjoyment is enhanced by a greater understanding of the landscape.

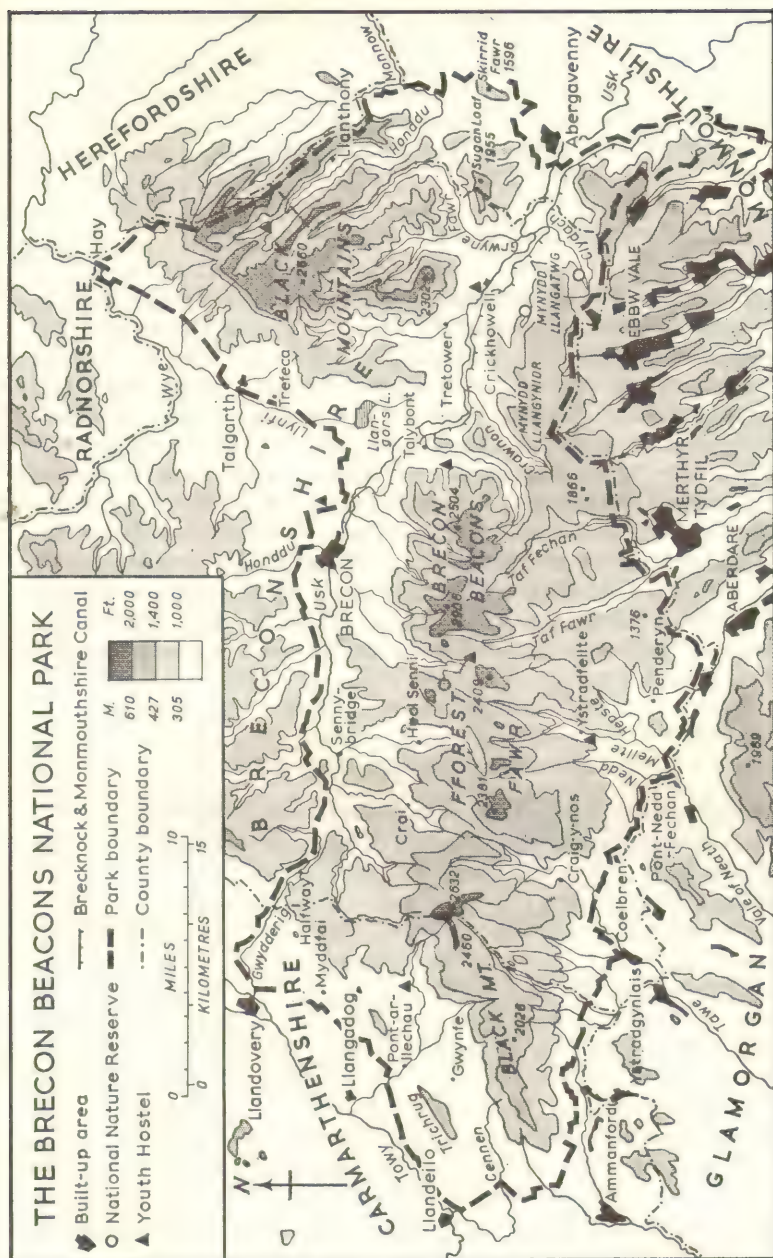


Fig. 2. Natural features and settlements of the Park



## *Geology and Scenery*

by THE EDITOR

THE relationship between rocks and scenery is seldom so well exemplified as in the Brecon Beacons National Park. Its rocks belong to the Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian and Carboniferous Systems, i.e. to the Palaeozoic group. The oldest of all rocks—Pre-Cambrian and Cambrian—which occupy much of the worn-down surface of Anglesey, are not represented in the Park. Rocks newer than the Coal Measures, such as Triassic red marls and sandstones, Cotswold limestones, the chalk of the downland and the clays and sands of the London Basin, are found east of, and well beyond the Monmouthshire Park boundary. Nevertheless, rightly interpreted, the Palaeozoic rocks of the Park tell of seas that took the place of sinking lands, and of the slow upheaval of sediments laid down on the sea floor, to become the elevated masses out of which successive landscapes have been carved by nature's graving tools—water, wind and ice.

### ORDOVICIAN AND SILURIAN ROCKS

The oldest rocks of the Park were formed towards the end of a long period during which many thousands of feet of mud and sand accumulated under great seas and were subsequently consolidated as the waters retreated. They formed the Ordovician and Silurian rocks which now underlie most of west and north Wales. They occur only in the extreme west of the Park, in a narrow band roughly parallel to the road from Llandeilo to Llandovery (Fig. 3). The names of these little towns are known to all geologists because they have been given to rock series in the Ordovician and Silurian systems. In the Park, Ordovician rocks are represented by mudstones and grits and the Silurian system by shales and sandstones with marine shelly fossils. These tough, hard rocks form part of the worn-down eastern limb of a great arch of rock known as the Towy anticline. They underlie the slopes up from the water-meadows of the Towy valley, rise more steeply into the Trichrug ridge, east of Llandeilo, and then dip under the newer rocks of the Carmarthenshire Black Mountain.

## DEVONIAN ROCKS

Devonian rocks, represented here by six subdivisions of the Old Red Sandstone, cover most of the Park. The three oldest subdivisions are represented in its valleys and lower hills. Lowest come the Tilestones which split and make the attractive roofs of older houses in the west of the Park. They occur only in that area, in a narrow band adjacent to the Silurian outcrop. Tilestones can be examined at Pontarllechau (bridge of slabs) in the Sawdde valley and in a quarry about a mile east of Halfway on the Brecon-Llandovery road (A 40).

The next subdivision is that of the Red Marls and the Usk cuts down into them along much of its course in the Park. In the north-east of the Park, the foothills below the Black Mountains scarp are composed of Red Marls. Next come the Senni Beds, visible in valleys west and south-west of Brecon, like those of the Senni and Tarell rivers. The Senni Beds contain green or dull red sandstones which offer varying resistance to running water and over them many other rock-strewn, northward-flowing rivers tumble down to the Usk.

The mountains of the Park—Carmarthenshire Black Mountain, Fforest Fawr, Brecon Beacons, and Breconshire and Monmouthshire Black Mountains—are uplifted and dominating masses of two of the most resistant Devonian rock formations. Brownstones, in layer upon layer, comprising 1,200 to 1,400 feet of rock, predominate. They consist of interbedded red marls, brown sandstones and conglomerates; the harder bands stand out as steps and shelves. They are capped by Plateau Beds, the conglomerates and sandstones which give the mountains of the Park their well-known 'table tops'. Splendid sections through great thicknesses of these Brownstones and Plateau Beds are visible in the steep cliffs which tower above the Usk and Llynfi-Wye valleys (Plates I-III). Plate II shows the scarp of the Black Mountains between the 1,778-foot pass into the Vale of Ewyas, the Tump (2,263 feet) and Y Dâs (2,232 feet). The enclosed land is on the Red Marls, which here include sandstones and limestones. The steep main scarp is composed of Brownstones, here represented by sandstones and conglomerates over a thousand feet thick. Waun Fach (2,660 feet), high up on the left margin of the view, and Pen y Gadair Fawr (2,624 feet), the other culminating point of the Black Mountains, rise up above their general level because they are capped by Plateau Beds. Bands of hard conglomerates in these beds form steps near their summits. The cliffs (*tarenni*, locally 'darrens') high upslope in the valleys behind the Black Mountains scarp are similar steps produced by hard sandstones in the Brownstone series.

The youngest Devonian rocks, the Grey Grits, comprise quartz grits and conglomerates and outcrop next to the Carboniferous rocks in the



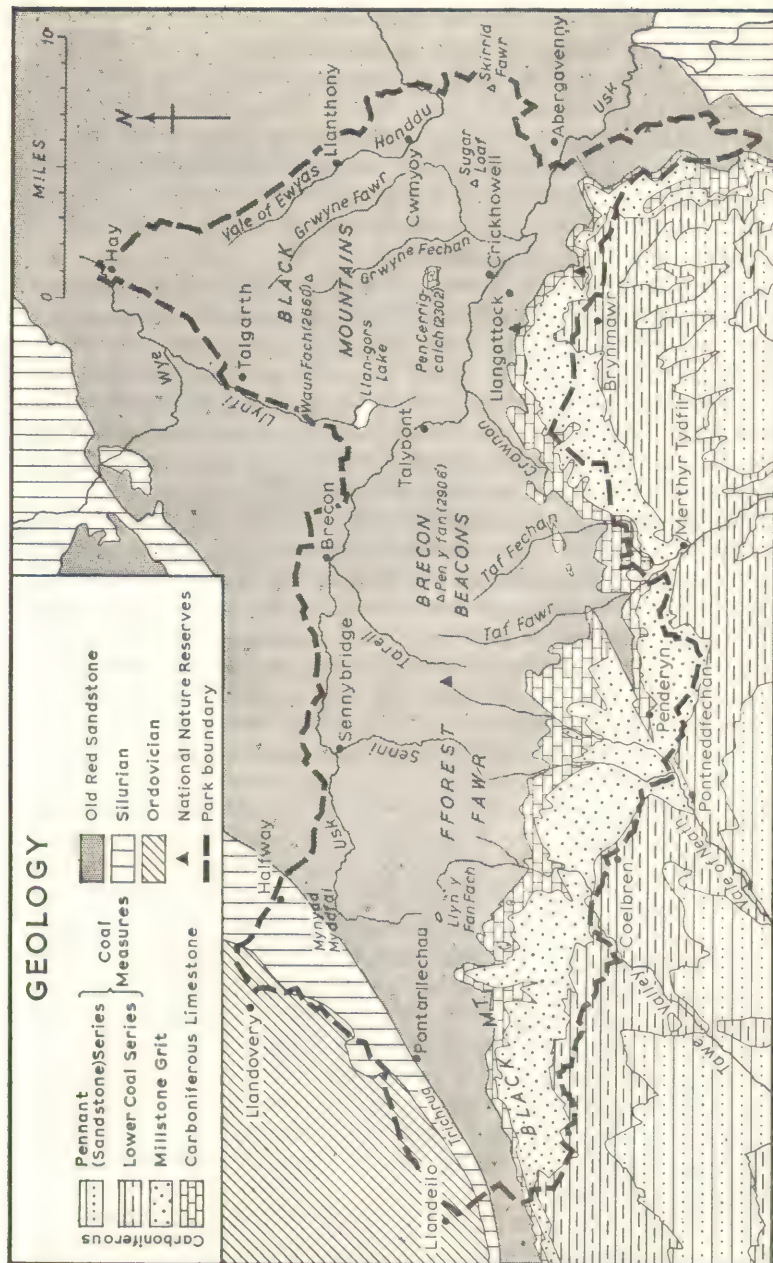


Fig. 3. The Geology of the Park. The authorized height of Pen y Fan is now 2,907 feet and of Pen Cerrig Calch 2,301 feet

south of the Park. They form Bryniau Gleision (blue-grey hills), the ridge between Taf Fechan and Talybont reservoirs. Throughout the south of the Park the Grey Grits and other Devonian rocks dip gradually southwards and pass underneath the great mass of Carboniferous rocks which, between the Park and the Bristol Channel, forms the South Wales coalfield.

The fresh or brackish water in which the Park's Old Red Sandstone was mostly laid down did not teem with life and fossils are not common. True fishes replaced primitive ones during the Devonian Period and both are represented in the rocks of the Brecon Beacons and their fringes. Fern-like plants are also found in Devonian green shales in a quarry beside A 470,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-west of Brecon.

#### CARBONIFEROUS ROCKS

Part of the high northern rim of the South Wales coalfield—little of it coal-bearing but all of it fascinating geologically—forms the southern border zone of the Park. Here the Carboniferous outcrop is as much as 6 miles wide on the south side of the Black Mountain and 7 miles wide around Ystradfellte and Penderyn, but it narrows until it is only 2 miles wide near Abergavenny in Monmouthshire. The thickness of its beds is also reduced at this eastern end. In the Park, Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit are its main components. The oldest belt, the Carboniferous Limestone, is broadest around Ystradfellte, and Plate VII shows a characteristic limestone surface there. Laid down in shallow seas, and full of the remains of corals, shellfish and sea lilies, this limestone occurs in massive beds exposed sometimes like a worn pavement, sometimes as rough crags and sometimes in broken, rectangular, blocks. Shaly beds are often interbedded with the purer limestones, particularly with the lower layers.

Along its most northerly outcrop the Carboniferous Limestone stands out as a sharp cliff or scar above a gentler slope underlain by Old Red Sandstone. The cliffs which form Craig y Ciliau Nature Reserve, west of Llangattock (Fig. 3), are a good example. Such scars are often quarried, as in the Taf Fawr valley north of Merthyr Tydfil. Pen Cerrig Calch,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Crickhowell, is the only Carboniferous outlier north of the Usk. Its name describes its distinctive limestone cap.

Swallow holes or sink holes (or, in northern England, shake holes) are formed by solution of the limestone in an area of heavy rainfall by water draining off acid peat, by streams sinking down joints in the limestone, and by the collapse of Basal Grit (the lowest Millstone Grit formation) into caverns in the underlying limestone. There are more of them to the square mile in the Brecon Beacons Park than in any

other area of Britain and they occur throughout the limestone and millstone grit belts from Carmarthenshire to Mynydd Llangatwg, above Crickhowell. Seen from the air, as in Plate VII, it seems as though the surface of the Park had been heavily bombed. The line of sink holes which runs up from the bottom right-hand corner of this plate follows a fault line. Many of the sink holes are of interest to cavers (see page 51). Some large ones resulting from the collapse of Basal Grit lie by A 4059, north of Penderyn and just beyond the junction with the road down to Ystradfellte.

The headstreams of the River Neath—upper Neath (Nedd Fechan), Mellte and Hepste—reach the limestone belt and sink underground into its joints and caverns. Near Ystradfellte the Mellte flows beneath a usually dry pebbly bed for about a mile. It then enters a short gorge and disappears into the well-known cavern, Porth yr Ogof, to re-emerge about a furlong beyond it to flow down another gorge. Larger rivers like the Taf Fawr and Taf Fechan cross the limestone without interruptions in their surface flow because they have worked down to its water-saturated zone or water table.

Millstone Grit, once used for millstones, lies above the Carboniferous Limestone. It is composed of quartzites and sandstones. Its lowest layers, the Basal Grit, are tough white quartzites and conglomerates. When coalminers met its uppermost layer they knew that they had come to the end of the Coal Measures and they called it the Farewell Rock. There are some thin coal seams in the middle, shaly layers of the Millstone Grit, but they are not worked in the Park. In Carmarthenshire the Basal Grit forms the conspicuous rock-strewn escarpment of the western Black Mountain and rises to over 2,000 feet in the grey mass of Garreg Lwyd. This escarpment is well seen from A 4069, the Brynmanan-Llangadog road, which climbs to 1,618 feet in crossing it. Quartz beds stand out as small cliffs in Basal Grit country. There are many of them around the upper valleys of the Tawe and Neath. The Farewell Rock is well displayed on the slopes of the Blorenge and Gilwern Hill which frown over the Usk valley near Abergavenny.

As they cross the Millstone Grit, the headstreams of the River Neath plunge as waterfalls over ledges of sandstone which, being harder than the shales below them, have been better able to resist erosion. The falls and rapids in these rivers, which converge on Pontneddfechan, are remarkable for their beauty and variety. Sgwd yr Eira, on the River Hepste a mile north of Penderyn, is unique locally in that soft shales near the base of the falls have been washed away to such an extent that a recess has been formed and it is possible to walk on its floor behind the curtain of falling water. The cover illustration shows shepherds driving their flocks behind it. Three falls interrupt the





PLATE I. Air view over Pen y Fan and the Taf Fechan reservoirs

PLATE II. North-west scarp of the Black Mountains. Track over Cnapiau into  
Vale of Ewyas in left foreground: Tumpia in centre





PLATE III. Black Mountain scarp, Carmarthenshire, looking south-west, and Llyn y Fan Fach. There is a small dam behind the moraine

PLATE IV. Black Mountain, Fan Hir, and the snow scree, looking south

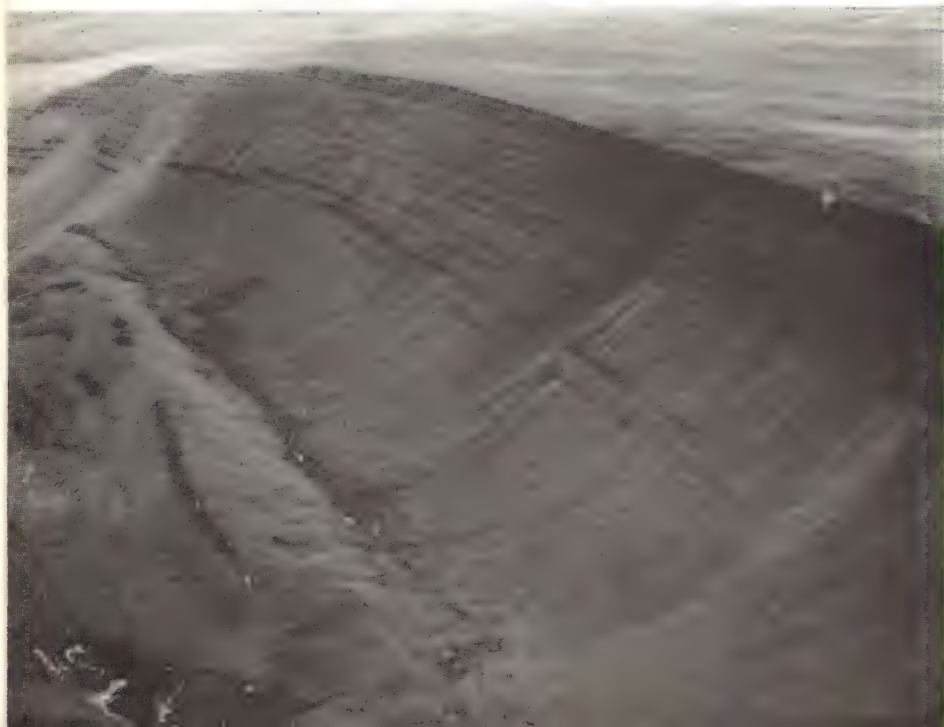




PLATE V. Upper Clun-gwyn Fall, Mellte River

PLATE VI. A Helictite in Crystal Pool Chamber, Ogof Ffynnon Ddu





PLATE VII. Carboniferous limestone country near Ystradfellte



flow of the Mellte before it joins the Hepste. Named Sgwd Clun-gwyn (Plate V), Sgwd Isaf Clun-gwyn and Sgwd y Pannwr (or sometimes Upper, Middle and Lower Clun-gwyn Falls), each has its special features, and together they afford a fine demonstration of the differing origins and characteristics of falls. Other falls occur on the Nedd Fechan and on its tributary the Pyrddin, which forms the boundary of the Park. On the Pyrddin, Sgwd Gwladys falls over a ledge of sandstone resting on easily eroded shales, while the high Sgwd Einion Gam plunges over sandstones which, because of a fault, are replaced below the fall by shales. At Henryd Falls, near Coelbren, the River Llech plunges perpendicularly over a cliff in which a thin coal seam is exposed and descends about 90 feet in an unbroken sheet on its way to join the Tawe.

The uppermost Carboniferous rocks are the Coal Measures: only their Lower Coal Series is represented in the Park. Its rocks can be seen in the Tawe valley near Coelbren and east of Brynmawr in the Clydach gorge; here ironstones as well as coal seams are visible. Both are associated with shales and sandstones. In the relatively small areas where Coal Measures occur in the Park, they underlie only the lower hillsides and valleys on the Park border.

#### EARTH MOVEMENTS

It is possible that seas, in which newer rocks like chalk were laid down, intermittently covered all except the highest peaks of the Park. If so, all these newer rocks have been worn away and the great line of Old Red Sandstone mountains, from the Carmarthen Fan to the Black Mountains above Hay-on-Wye, stands well-preserved and relatively little altered (Fig. 4). Raised high and slightly tilted back by earth movements, so that they fall gently southward from their high northern scarps, these mountains form the dominating feature of the Park.

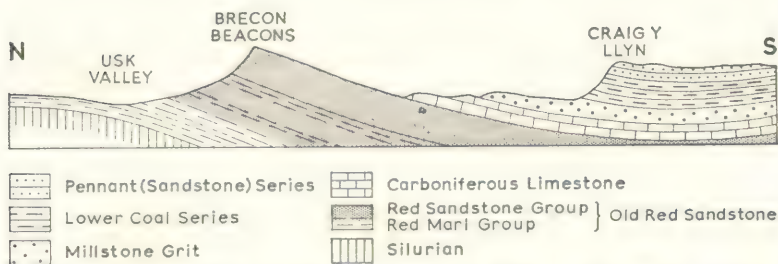


Fig. 4. The geological structure of the Park and the adjacent country illustrated by a diagrammatic section from north to south

The country underlain by Carboniferous rocks displays more evidence of disturbance. These rocks have been tilted, uplifted, folded and fractured, and great and smaller fracture and fault belts run across the south of the Park, interrupting the continuity of the outcrops. Because their disturbed rocks form weak zones, running water has worked on this weakness and valleys run along the faults. One major fault zone runs east-north-eastwards from Carreg Cennen below the scarp of the Carmarthenshire Black Mountain. Another runs north-eastwards from Cribarth, a sharply folded ridge overlooking the River Tawe where it forms the Park boundary. The greatest upheaval was produced by the fault belt which is a continuation of the Vale of Neath Disturbance. It runs east-north-eastwards from Pontneddfechan at the head of the main Neath valley. Craig y Dinas and Bwa Maen (stone bow), at Pontneddfechan, are spectacular examples of rocks lying on or near major faults and thrust and squeezed from near horizontal to vertical positions. From Pontneddfechan the zone of disturbance can be traced through the faulted ridges near Penderyn, along side valleys of the Taf Fawr and Taf Fechan rivers, and probably along the great trough of Dyffryn Cwannon (Fig. 3).

#### GLACIAL DEPOSITS

The uppermost, relatively flat, surfaces of the Park's mountains would readily accumulate snow and ice when the Ice Age began about a million years ago. Ice sheets developed on them and pushed glacier tongues in all directions down the valleys. The Usk and Llynfi valleys, and the nearby western valleys of the Black Mountains, were filled with ice moving south-eastward off the mountains of north Breconshire. Clays and gravels scraped up by the huge Usk glacier were widely deposited, for instance, between Crickhowell and Abergavenny. The mountain ice sheets, so large that tongues from them reached the Bristol Channel, scraped their way downslope, and, when they melted, varying depths of clays and coarse gravels were spread over all surfaces. Grit in the base of the ice smoothed off the underlying rocks while angular boulders embedded in it scored them with striae, parallel scratches which show which way the ice was moving. The Millstone Grit surfaces around Ystradfellte, and also west of the Tawe valley, have many of these 'glaciated pavements'.

As the ice gradually and sporadically melted, moraines were left to mark stages in the disappearance of the glaciers. Representing the long mounds of debris at a glacier's snout, or along its sides, and full of gravel and boulders, moraines are common on the high hills and in the valleys of the Park. A good group of morainic mounds lies at the head of the Tarell valley and can be seen by the many visitors to Storey Arms



on A 470. A much larger moraine, large enough to divert the Honddu and Monnow rivers north-eastward off their old courses down to Abergavenny, lies south and south-west of Llanfihangel Crucorney in Monmouthshire. The Abergavenny-Hereford railway cuts deeply into it.

The steep scarp faces of the high mountains of the Park all face north or north-west and contain cwms which get little sun. It was in these cwms that the greatest depth of ice accumulated and here the last ice-pockets lingered longest. There had been pre-glacial hollows there, but the ice enlarged them by plucking out rocks from the cliff face and grinding out basins at its base. Such semicircular cwms, corries or cirques are among the best-known features of the Brecon Beacons Park. They carry lakes dammed up behind moraines, as at Llyn y Fan Fach (Plate III) and Llyn y Fan Fawr, below the Black Mountain scarp, and Llyn Cwm-llwch, which lies under Corn Du and Pen y Fan. More often they now carry only small headstreams (Plate I). Boggy hollows with an outer curve of morainic mounds take the place of former corrie lakes: Craig Cerrig-gleisiad National Nature Reserve shows this well. On the lowlands, Llangorse Lake, in a shallow rock basin scooped out by ice, is dammed back by a barrier of glacial gravel.

The high north-eastern face of the Black Mountain runs from Fan Foel on the Carmarthenshire border to Fan Hir. This 'long crest' has a long strange feature at its foot (Plate IV). Here too, snow and ice would linger, and the mound which runs for three-quarters of a mile below the scarp is a snow scree full of angular sandstone blocks from the scarp which have slid there over a bank of snow and ice in the intervening gully.

#### RECENT DEPOSITS

Melt-waters from the disappearing ice deposited finer gravels and mud in many of the lower-lying parts of the Park, as do the lesser floods of its present-day rivers. Another widespread post-glacial deposit is peat. Even today, the higher surfaces of the Park receive about 100 inches of rain annually. There may have been wetter periods in the 12,000 years since the last permanent ice melted. The relatively flat tops and gentle southern slopes of the mountains, especially where they are clay-covered, are often blanketed by acid peat. It is composed of decayed plants which have grown on the mountains in the past 5,000 years or so. In the Brecon Beacons and Fforest Fawr erosion and gullying of the peat seems to have set in since Tudor times, possibly because sheep grazing has increased in both areas in this period.

Small landslides are common recent geological changes in the Park. Two large ones have produced noteworthy clefts in Monmouthshire.

Skirrid Fawr, a sharp ridge of Old Red Sandstone north-east of Abergavenny, is riven on its west side by a landslip, and the hillside at Cwmyoy, which overlooks the Vale of Ewyas, is similarly cleft.

Covering as it does some 300 million years of time and 519 square miles of territory, this account of the geology and scenery of the Park can indicate only a little of the story which the rocks have to tell. More detailed information is given in the works listed on page 80 and the visitor will find that the geological exhibits in the Brecknock Museum, opposite the Information Centre in Brecon, provide an informative introduction to the rocks and scenery of the Park.

### 3

## *The Fauna of the Park*

by COLIN MATHESON

IN comparison with the adjoining South Wales coalfield, the Brecon Beacons National Park is practically untouched by industry, but it has been considerably affected by human activities. Its abundant water resources in streams and lakes are now augmented by many reservoirs which considerably increase the area of water available as haunts or feeding grounds for aquatic birds, and for introduced stocks of fish. Cardiff Waterworks Department now distributes annually among the Brecon Beacons reservoirs 1,500 brown trout about nine inches long, and in 1960 put in 2,000 rainbow trout (North American types long acclimatized and interbred in Britain), while three to four thousand smaller hatchery-reared trout are added every year. Deforestation and reafforestation have repeatedly affected the appearance of the Park and the composition of its fauna. The forests established there since 1927 by the Forestry Commission include eleven which are wholly or partly within the Brecon Beacons National Park. In them, over 25,000 acres have been planted, almost entirely with conifers.

#### BIRD LIFE

Bird life is a feature that will appeal to a large number of visitors and many of the more interesting species may be seen at or around Llangorse Lake. This is a noted haunt of a variety of birds and is also well supplied with fish that constitute an important part of the diet of many of them. Thus the handsome great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) (Plate X), the largest British grebe, is known to have bred on the lake for over a century and about a dozen pairs still breed there. Its relative, the little grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*), formerly frequented Llangorse Lake but there are no records of its breeding there since 1957. The coot (*Fulica atra*) occurs at Llangorse Lake. The goosander (*Mergus merganser*), with its serrated bill, is a regular visitor every winter to Llangorse Lake and to other ponds and reservoirs, as well as to the Usk and the Wye. The red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*) has been recorded twice since 1957. These are all (except the coot) largely fish-eating birds, as are the heron (*Ardea cinerea*), of which there are three or four colonies or heronries within the Park, and the kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), which



breeds regularly on the Usk and on the Wye and Towy tributaries and is most commonly seen on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Other aquatic birds include the moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) and the secretive water rail (*Rallus aquaticus*), both seen on ponds and rivers. The dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) is found on many of the hill streams.

The reed warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) is notable as reaching almost the limits of its western distribution at Llangorse Lake. A summer visitor only and not a resident, this bird nests freely in south-east and central England, but in Devon and Cornwall and in Wales only in isolated localities. Breconshire and Monmouthshire are among the few Welsh counties where it breeds regularly. Its commoner relative the sedge warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobanus*) also nests around the extensive reed beds of the lake, as does the reed bunting (*Emberiza schœniclus*).

Various species of ducks in addition to goosander are to be seen at Llangorse Lake and at Talybont and other reservoirs, particularly in winter. They include wigeon (*Anas penelope*), tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), while mallard and teal breed in various ponds and bogs. The mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) breeds here and there in small numbers and whooper and Bewick's swans are winter visitors.

Among the hills the red grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*) may be found in small numbers. The south-eastern corner of the Park, in Monmouthshire, contains the remnants of the most southerly indigenous population of red grouse in Great Britain. Blaenavon grouse moors, which lay partly within the Park, in their heyday in the early years of this century yielded from 300 to 400 brace in a season. Though their numbers have declined here and elsewhere, shooting rights are still exercised and grouse kept in the Black Mountains. Black grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*) may also be seen occasionally in the west of the Park, mainly among conifers.

The curlew (*Numenius arquatus*), the common snipe (*Capella gallinago*) and the ring ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*) occur on the high hills and moors. The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) last bred in the early 1960s, while the merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and the kestrel (*F. tinnunculus*) also breed within the Park. The buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) occurs in fair numbers and even an occasional kite has been seen, although this bird has not become re-established as a breeding species. The raven (*Corvus corax*) still frequents its long-established nesting haunts on the steep cliffs of Craig Cerrig-gleisiad Nature Reserve, using both crags and trees (Plate XIII).

Among resident woodland birds, the goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) is familiar and green and great spotted woodpeckers occur fairly commonly. The wood pigeon is a numerous resident, with numbers greatly

augmented in winter by immigration. The stock dove is an uncommon breeding resident. The tree creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) and the nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) are numerous, as are the wood warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*), the chiffchaff (*P. collybita*), the blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), the pied flycatcher (*Muscicapa hypoleuca*) and the redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*), all summer visitors. In suitable wooded situations the sparrow-hawk (*Accipiter nisus*) and the tawny owl (*Strix aluco*) occur.

The little owl, *Athene noctua*, which was introduced to England from the Continent, first bred in the Park in the early 1920s; it may be seen in the Monmouthshire sector.

More than 200 kinds of birds have been recorded in the Park of which about one hundred breed there. Ingram and Salmon have published lists for each of the three counties (see pages 79–80 for these and later records).

#### THE MAMMALS

The polecat (*Mustela putorius*) survives in various parts of the Park, as in other areas of Mid-Wales (Plate XI). Central and North Wales are the last British stronghold in which it lives and breeds in appreciable numbers. Elsewhere in Britain it has completely or practically disappeared, but in some of its Welsh haunts it is holding its own and is increasing in numbers and range, as is shown by records of its occurrence in the border counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire, where it had long been considered extinct. This spread may be due to the decrease in game-preservation and in rabbit-trapping.

Its much scarcer relative the marten (*Martes martes*) has been seen at rare intervals in the Park, but it is not known whether it breeds there since these animals appear sometimes to wander great distances from their usual haunts. The beautiful chestnut fur of the marten (which is a close relative of the sable so highly valued in the fur trade) was one of the reasons for the persecution which led to its decline; in medieval Welsh law marten fur could be used only on the king's robes and was priced more highly than any other fur except that of the beaver. In recent years, however, there have been some signs of an extension in the marten's range, assisted perhaps by the numerous plantations of conifers. Before 1939, Dolgellau in Merioneth was considered to be its southern limit, but there have since been records from farther south. Elsewhere in Great Britain the marten appears to survive only in the Highlands of Scotland and possibly in the Lake District National Park.

The otter (*Lutra lutra*) was formerly well distributed in the Park, with its many unpolluted rivers, ponds, reservoirs and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, but paucity of recent records suggests that it

is now scarcer, even on the Usk and its tributaries Tarell and Grwyne. The fox is still numerous.

Badger (*Meles meles*) setts or dens are common and this interesting creature appears to be maintaining its numbers. There are several reports of the 'erythristic' form, in which the hair that is normally black is of a sandy red colour. Occasionally the stoat (*Mustela erminea*) undergoes the change from the brown summer to the white winter coat which is general in northern Britain though rare in the south: examples have been noted at Three Cocks and at Crickhowell.

Among the rodents, the American grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) is now common. Although present in Monmouthshire and Herefordshire before the last war, not until afterwards was its spread into south-east Breconshire reported. In 1949 there were thought to be about a dozen in Mynydd Du Forest in the Grwyne Fawr valley; it also occurred in Talybont Forest. During the 1950s the grey squirrel extended its range in larger or smaller numbers to most parts of the Park. In 1957 no fewer than ninety were destroyed in Mynydd Du and 110 in Talybont Forest. Smaller totals were recorded from other Commission plantations in west Breconshire. Sixty years ago our native red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) was abundant in the Park; today it may remain in parts of north Breconshire but is extremely scarce in the south.

Three species of vole are found in the Park; one of them, the field vole (*Microtus agrestis*), has attracted considerable notice because of its fairly regular fluctuations between extremes of high and low population density. The 'vole plague' of 1956 in Breconshire and other Welsh counties was one of the worst ever noted, and the damage done by the animals affected not only the hills but low-lying woodlands and pastures. Forestry Commission plantations within the Park which suffered considerable damage were those in the Taf Fechan valley (where almost a third of the Lawson cypress planted in 1952 were damaged), in Glyn Tarell, and Hay Forest (where over four thousand out of six thousand red oak seedlings were destroyed). The wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) and the yellow-necked mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis*) are found in the Park.

Only six of the twelve British species of bats have so far been found in the Park. These are the common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), the noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), the long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), the greater and lesser horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus ferrum-equinum insulanus* and *R. hipposideros minutus*) and Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*). The occurrence of the first five of these has long been known, but Natterer's bat was not recorded until 1962 when a colony was found in the roof of Llywel church on the north-west border of the Park. It is possible that one or two other species await discovery, such as the barbastelle, a



colony of which was noted many years ago in Radnorshire, and the whiskered bat.

Recently occasional deer have been reported in the Park, but their species (probably fallow or roe) has not been established. A dead muntjac or barking deer (*Muntiacus*) was found within the Park in September, 1962, near Bwlch, and another about the same time near Abergavenny, just outside it. These two occurrences give some reason to expect that these animals, natives of the Far East and originally introduced to Woburn Park in Bedfordshire, may gradually extend their range westward into Wales, as they have done into parts of the Midlands.

#### REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, FISHES

Two species of snake, the grass or ringed snake (*Natrix natrix*) and the adder (*Vipera berus*) occur within the Park though neither has been noted often. The slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), often considered as a snake and regarded with suspicion, is really a lizard in which the limbs have atrophied. As in the two snakes, the young usually are born or hatch in August or September, but this may vary. A slow-worm measuring 72 millimetres found at Llanfrynach, near Brecon, at the beginning of November, had probably just been born, as the length at birth is from about 70 to 90 millimetres. The only other reptile is the common lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*). The adder, distinguished almost invariably by a dark zigzag stripe down the middle of the back, is the only poisonous British reptile. Any others that may be seen are entirely harmless, despite stories to the contrary. A veterinary surgeon at Abergavenny recently sent me from the Llanbedr area of the Black Mountains a small creature which he reported was commonly believed by local farmers to bite or sting their sheep. It was a common lizard.

Among amphibians, the common frog (*Rana temporaria*) and common toad (*Bufo vulgaris*) are widely distributed. Occasionally on the hills and moors the visitor may see a whitish jelly-like substance which in South Wales is called *pydru ser* (star rot) and which is known in England as star slime. Popularly linked with shooting stars, it really consists (at least in many cases) of the swollen and decomposing gelatinous lining of the oviducts of frogs or toads which have been eaten by birds or other predators. Of our three British species of newts, the smooth newt (*Triturus vulgaris*) and the smaller palmate newt (*T. helveticus*) may both be found in ponds in the Park, the latter up to considerable altitudes. The late Charles Oldham found the palmate newt at 1,950 feet in Llyn y Fan Fawr, and it has been noted in North Wales at even greater heights. The largest and handsomest of British

newts, the warty or great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), has not so far been discovered in Breconshire.

The fame of the Usk and the Wye as salmon and trout rivers is well known and has often been described. Pike, eels, roach and perch are numerous in Llangorse Lake (Llyn Syfaddan). Some of the pike (*Esox lucius*) grow very large, and the same is true of the eels (*Anguilla anguilla*), as is suggested by a local Welsh expression meaning 'as long as a Syfaddan eel'. But some of these species, while found in the lake and in smaller ponds, are rare in the Usk itself. This presents a contrast with the Wye, which seems to mark the western limits of the natural distribution in Britain of various species of fish, although this matter is complicated by the introduction by man of some species to certain rivers and ponds. Thus the roach (*Rutilus rutilus*) is scarce in the Usk but numerous in the Wye. The pike and the perch, also uncommon in the Usk, are frequent in the Wye and the pike grows to a great size there. The carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) is found in small numbers in the Wye but only in ponds in the Usk valley. The grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*) and the chub (*Squalius cephalus*), both absent from the Usk, occur in considerable numbers in the Wye. Dace (*Leuciscus leuciscus*) are found in great numbers in both rivers but do not appear to occur naturally in the rivers of Glamorgan or farther west. In the Hay stretch of the Wye, which skirts the north-eastern edge of the Park, the available, but incomplete, records of coarse fish taken by anglers in one recent year showed a total of 99 pike ranging up to 29 lb., as well as 122 perch, 920 eels, 817 dace, 256 chub and numbers of gudgeon, grayling and shad.

#### INSECTS, MOLLUSCS AND OTHER GROUPS

Within the limits of the Park there is a wide variety of insect life, which has not been investigated nearly so thoroughly as that of some other districts of Wales and therefore affords opportunities for new discoveries to the visitor interested in entomology. Nevertheless, over four hundred species of beetles have been noted in Breconshire, many of them within the Park. Localities near Llangamarch Wells, and some in the Park, have produced the bee beetle (*Trichius fasciatus*), a large and showy insect with yellow black-spotted wing covers which seems to be confined to western and northern Britain. It is recorded from a number of places in Wales and Scotland but has not been found in England except in Devon.

As with other groups of animals, the insect fauna of the Park may from time to time receive additions due to human agency or natural spread. The beetle *Cis bilamellatus*, thought to have been accidentally imported to England from Australia, was first recorded in the London

area in 1884. Subsequently it spread to various parts of England and in 1959 was noted for the first time in Wales, in Glamorgan. In 1962 it was found in the Park at Sgwd yr Eira, near Penderyn, living, as it does elsewhere, on the bracket fungus. Sixty years ago the comma butterfly (*Polygonia c-album*), once apparently common over most of England and Wales, had practically disappeared except in the counties of Monmouth, Hereford and Gloucester. In 1905 Barker, writing on the insects of Carmarthenshire, said he had seen only one and heard of some others. Subsequently it increased and extended its range again across South Wales and by 1951 was quite common in Carmarthenshire. It is now to be found in the south-east of the Park. Over twenty other species of butterfly have been recorded in the Park, including the uncommon marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) and, unusual in this part of the country, the brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*), grayling (*Eumenis semele*) and white-letter hairstreak (*Styemonidia w-album*).

Interesting habits of some of the insects may occasionally obtrude themselves on the visitor's notice. Some years ago an entomologist found the floor of a small wood in Glyn Tarell, at a height of about a thousand feet, carpeted with innumerable specimens of the fly *Crumomyia nigra*, a species associated with decaying organic matter and remarkable for its habit of appearing at times in huge numbers within a small area.

There are records of several species of one of our most beautiful groups of insects, the dragonflies, and many of these are from Llangorse Lake. There the common and the variable Coenagrion (*C. puella* and *C. pulchellum*) and the common blue damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*) have on occasion been seen in swarms. Some show a considerable altitudinal range, the golden-ringed dragonfly (*Cordulegaster boltonii*) having been seen at about 2,000 feet at Craig Cerrig-gleisiad as well as in gardens in Brecon. A very rare dragonfly, *Ischnura pumilio*, breeds within the Park in one small area which is one of perhaps only two known breeding localities for this species in Britain.

The molluscan fauna is particularly well represented at Llangorse Lake, probably because its water has a high calcium content and so is favourable to various types that thrive in hard water. Altogether over two dozen species, univalves and bivalves, have been noted there. Among the univalves the great pond snail (*Limnea stagnalis*) occurs in huge numbers, and three other species of *Limnea* are common, as well as the 'lake limpet' (*Ancylus lacustris*). The ram's-horn or trumpet snail (*Planorbis corneus*), with its flattened coiled shell, seems to have appeared in the lake within the past fifty years and is now numerous, while six other species of trumpet snails also occur. The bladder snail (*Physa fontinalis*), the common Bithynia (*B. tentaculata*) and the valve snails



(*Valvata piscinalis* and *V. cristata*) are other types represented. Among the small bivalves are the horny orb-shell (*Sphaerium corneum*) and several species of pea-shells (*Pisidium*); larger types include the painter's mussel (*Unio pictorum*), so called because its 3-inch-long valves were formerly used as containers for artists' colours, and the still larger swan mussel (*Anodonta cygnea*).

Once plentiful in this country, the medicinal leech (*Hirudo medicinalis*) has become very rare, possibly because it was extensively gathered for blood-letting. It was in fact thought to be extinct but is now known to survive in a few remote places. One of these is Llangorse Lake where it occurs among the weed beds along with the much more numerous horse leech (*Haemopsis sanguisuga*).

The caves in the Carboniferous Limestones of the Tawe and Neath river systems have an interesting fauna. In them occur several blind white crustaceans specially adapted for subterranean life. These caves have been the subject of increasing attention in recent years. Apart from living creatures the cave deposits have produced remains of bear, wild ox, red and roe deer and other mammals long since extinct in the National Park.

## 4

### *Flora and Vegetation*

by D. M. P. GUILF

BARELY minutes ago on the geological time-scale, the Park was in the grip of the Pleistocene Ice Age. There were at least two major advances of the ice from mountains in the area which were high enough to carry their own ice caps. From these, glaciers radiated down the valleys. Nunataks (ridges protruding above the ice and therefore possible refuges for vegetation) probably did not exist in the Park at the time of maximum glaciation and the pre-glacial flora was swept away by the ice together with the topsoil in which it was rooted. The present flora, and the vegetation which it comprises, is therefore a descendant of a post-glacial immigrant flora.

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VEGETATION

As the ice finally retreated, about 10,000 B.C., the virgin soils were colonized by an arctic vegetation similar to that seen today in the tundras of the northern hemisphere. As warmth increased this vegetation was displaced by a more temperate type and the arctic remnants retreated up the mountain slopes and made a last stand on the precipices of the highest summits. Today a much impoverished relic of this arctic-alpine vegetation may be seen high on the Carmarthen Fan and Brecon Beacons, and locally elsewhere, especially on limestone crags. One of the richest alpine cliffs is the Craig Cerrig-gleisiad National Nature Reserve,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-west of Brecon (see Fig. 2 and Plate XIII).

The climate of the Boreal Period (c. 7,000–5,000 B.C.) was continental-northern, i.e. dry, with relatively warm summers and severe winters. At first the lowland vegetation resembled that of the continental northern forests of today, but with birch dominant over pine. Later hazel became very abundant and pedunculate or damp oak (*Quercus robur*), lime and elm increased and formed a deciduous forest belt below that of birch-pine. The timber-line may have reached 2,000 feet or more. Birch is buried in many peat bogs well above the present tree-limit in the Park. Beyond the timber-line alpine grasslands ('mountain tundra') still held sway.

A climatic optimum was attained in the following Atlantic Period (c. 5,000–3,000 B.C.) when conditions were oceanic, i.e. warm and humid. Peat began to accumulate above the timber-line, initiating true moorland. Gradually the alpine grassland was displaced upslope while the upper margins of the forest were invaded by bog, causing a lowering of the forest limit. The climate favoured alder, elm and oak at the expense of birch and pine.

In the sub-Boreal Period a return to drier conditions led to local increase of birch and pine while elm decreased sharply. Beech made its first significant appearance late in this period. But about 700 B.C. a very abrupt climatic deterioration set in, bringing in the sub-Atlantic Period, which is still with us. Pine disappeared from the Park, lime decreased, while durmast or sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), beech, and then ash, became dominant. Peat accumulation was accelerated.

Neolithic man was tending his flocks on the shoulders of the Black Mountains of Breconshire as long ago as 2,500 B.C., during the sub-Boreal Period. He practised shifting cultivation in the scrub woodland growing on light soils and gravels there and his animals reduced regeneration by eating saplings. A heavier onslaught on the forests later in the sub-Boreal by Bronze Age men and animals increased pasture and thorn-scrub at the expense of the forest. Even so, when the sub-Atlantic began, much of the forest was still intact and the timber-line varied from 1,000 feet in the exposed south-west of the Park to over 2,000 feet in the sheltered valleys of the Black Mountains.

Durmast oak, and little else, dominated the thin siliceous soils and thinned out towards the timber-line. Where limestone outcropped, pure ashwoods with hazel and hawthorn undergrowth occurred, except in the south-east corner of the Park where beechwoods were dominant and sometimes spread on to adjacent siliceous soils. Deep damp valley soils probably carried heavy forests of damp or pedunculate oak, with alder prominent in marshy places.

A fair amount of lowland forest must have been cleared in the Iron Age and Roman period, but there was some reversion during the Dark Ages. Fox has pointed out that because the Hereford plain must then have still been densely forested, there is a 30-mile gap there in Offa's Dyke. The subsequent story has been one of accelerating clearance of forest for timber, fuel, industry, or to release land for cultivation and grazing. Agricultural methods have periodically changed; re-forestation is a new development. Today there are only scattered relics of the former forest cover in the Park and these are mostly on inaccessible slopes and precipices. Even these are probably altered by human interference and few are regenerating satisfactorily. An important relict beechwood with a rich and rare flora is preserved in Cwm Clydach



National Nature Reserve, between Gilwern and Brynmawr (Plate XII). Many groves of hardwoods and conifers have been planted, particularly, in recent years, by the Forestry Commission.

Enclosed cultivated land (orchards, arable, pasture and meadow) is seldom seen above 600 feet in the wet south-west, and 1,200 feet in the drier north-east of the Park. Former forested slopes beyond the uppermost fields now carry, on poor siliceous soils, rough grassland dominated by brown bent (*Agrostis tenuis*) and sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*). This grass heath includes the *ffridd*, the large enclosed rough pastures next to the open mountain grazings. Bent-fescue grassland has invaded the lower peat communities beyond the timber-line and has itself been invaded by peat community plants such as matgrass (*Nardus stricta*), purplegrass (*Molinia caerulea*), heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*). This is due to former intensive grazing and partly to climatic changes. When cattle predominated on the *ffridd* and mountain pastures the western gorse (*Ulex gallii*) was widespread and abundant in the bent-fescue grassland, while bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) was less prominent. In Tudor times, and later, the change to sheep grazing led to a decrease of gorse and to its elimination in many places, while bracken spread rapidly over well-drained slopes in the drier north and east. Neither gorse nor bracken seems to penetrate beyond the timber-line and both are discouraged by waterlogged soil.

Man's influence beyond the timber-line has been less obtrusive. There has been some draining of peat bogs and burning of vegetation, but man's animals have wrought the greatest changes. Blanketing *Sphagnum* bog, which Pearsall believed responsible for the first peat accumulation at levels such as those of the highest summits in the Park, gave way to cottongrass moor. This vegetation still occupies undisturbed areas of deep peat throughout the Park. Peat erosion seems to have started a few hundred years ago; it has recently accelerated. During erosion the peat is largely destroyed, but the remnants are distributed in thinner layers over the newly exposed rocky substratum. The accompanying vegetational changes have been profound.

#### THE EXISTING VEGETATION

The present pattern of vegetation is shown on Fig. 5. It is not possible to show all the types on a small-scale map. The numerous woodland relics, unlike the large State Forests, are too small to be included. Alpine cliffs, limestone areas and sites of aquatic vegetation, with the exception of Llangorse Lake, have also had to be omitted. But all are described below.

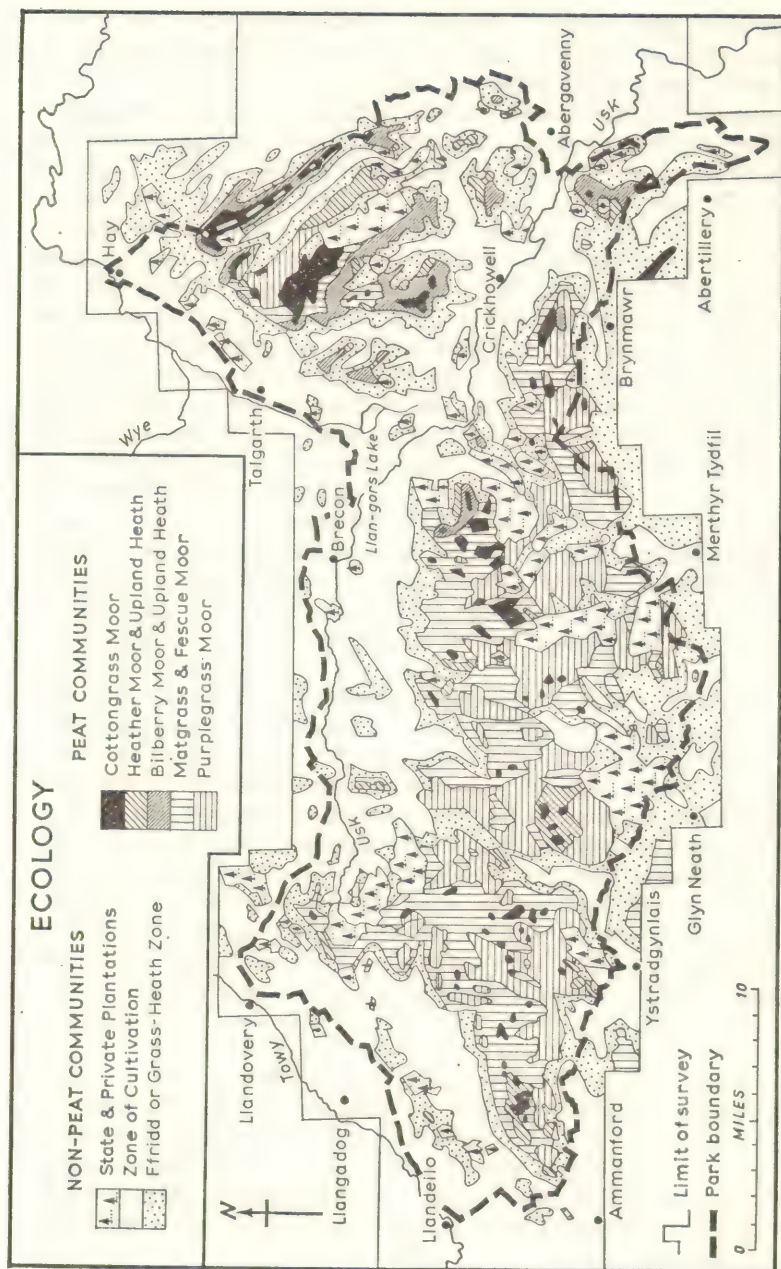


Fig. 5. Types of vegetation in the Park



PLATE VIII. Fourth Lake, Dan yr Ogof, showing stalactite curtain

PLATE IX. East passage, Tunnel Cave. Stalactites and stalagmites







PLATE X. Great Crested Grebe

PLATE XI. Polecat emerging from his den





PLATE XII. Beechwoods in Cwm Clydach National Nature Reserve, looking east





PLATE XIII. Craig Cerrig-gleisiad National Nature Reserve

PLATE XIV. Penmoelallt Forest Nature Reserve, near Cefncoedycymer





### I. Woodlands

In DURMAST OAKWOODS, which are often found in the Park, birch is the only other common tree. The ground flora is sparse in heavy shade and then consists chiefly of acid-loving mosses like *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum commune* and *Dicranum scoparium*. Where illumination is better there may be a closed herb community dominated by soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and bracken. High-level open oakwoods are often carpeted with bilberry and bracken, while in sheltered valleys on better soil, the herb layer is rich in ferns, bluebell (*Endymion non-scriptus*) and tufted hair-grass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*).

In ASHWOODS on limestone, the hegemony of the ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is seldom threatened, but shrub and herb layers are well developed and rich in species, for ash casts little shade. Hazel and hawthorn are the chief shrub species and the predominant herbs are ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), wood soft-brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), tufted hairgrass and wood meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*). The finest ashwood relicts occur near the Taf Fawr—Taf Fechan confluence and on Craig Rhiwarth in the upper Tawe valley near Craig-y-nos.

The ALDER (*Alnus glutinosa*) forms woods in marshy places and, as one might expect, the common woodland herbs are here joined by a rich contingent of marsh plants.

BEECHWOODS, when dense, cast heavy shade in which the ground, covered with decaying leaf litter, shows little other than an occasional yellowish stem of bird's nest (*Monotropa hypopithys*). With better illumination a rich flora and a close ground vegetation develop. Societies dominated by tufted hair-grass, ramsons, dog's mercury, wood soft-brome and enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) are characteristic, and other prominent species include herb-robert (*Geranium robertianum*) and hart's tongue fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*). The Welsh word for beech, *ffawydden*, is common in place-names in the south-east of the Park but not elsewhere in it. There are several beechwood relicts on the slopes of the Usk valley between Crickhowell and Pontypool. Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is a native species in this area and a planted tree farther north and west.

### II. Ffridd or Grass-Heath Zone

Characteristic plants of bent-fescue grassland are brown bent (*Agrostis tenuis*), sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*), sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), matgrass (*Nardus stricta*), tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), heath bedstraw (*Galium hercynicum*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), hard fern (*Blechnum spicant*), bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*),

heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), gorse (*Ulex gallii*) and the mosses *Dicranum scoparium*, *Polytrichum commune* and *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

### III. Montane (Mountain and Moorland) Zone

ALPINE CLIFF AND SCREE have a very rich flora containing many plants characteristic of tundra and alpine pasture. Ferns, fern allies, mosses, liverworts and lichens also occur profusely. Some lowland plants make an unexpected appearance on alpine cliffs, e.g. cowslip (*Primula veris*), sea bladder campion (*Silene maritima*) and thrift (*Armeria maritima*).

LIMESTONE VEGETATION is floristically the richest type in the Park. The fresh green of the closely cropped grassland, dominated by sheep's fescue, but with a strong admixture of lowland pasture herbs, contrasts markedly with the dull shades of the peat margin vegetation. Where there is protection from sheep, as in fissures or on precipices, a rich alpine flora mingles with a rich lowland flora (trees, shrubs and herbs), and where springs emerge, calcicolous, i.e. lime-loving, mosses and liverworts abound. The finest limestone vegetation is preserved on the precipices of Craig y Ciliau Nature Reserve, 2 miles south-west of Crickhowell. Limestone polypody (*Gymnocarpium robertianum*) is characteristic of limestone scree.

MOORLAND of some sort covers much of the Park. The inter-relationships of the various moorland communities are given below. The diagram shows several well-defined plant successions studied in the Park and associated with peat erosion.

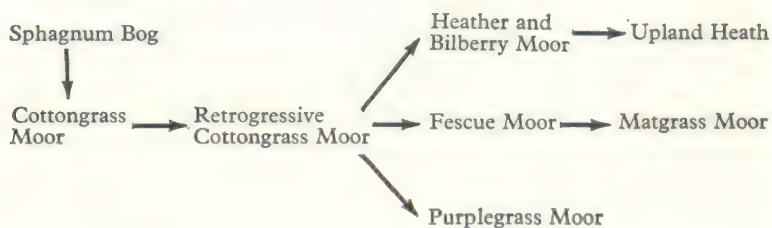


Figure 5 shows a preponderance of heather and bilberry moor and upland heath in the Black Mountains. The 'moor' is on deep peat and the 'heath' on shallow redistributed peat. This plant succession is characteristic of drier climates in upland Britain. In the wetter west of the Park, the succession is different. Under conditions of free drainage, redistributed peat is occupied by sheep's fescue, giving fescue moor, and this grass, being attractive to sheep, is overgrazed and eventually replaced by matgrass, which is unpalatable to sheep. On waterlogged ground, redistributed peat is occupied by purplegrass (*Molinia*), giving purplegrass moor. This occupies vast areas of the ill-drained dip-slopes

of the Brecon Beacons, Fforest Fawr and the Carmarthenshire Black Mountain, but occurs only in the wettest parts of the Black Mountains in the east of the Park.

Moorland communities are relatively poor in species and many are dominated by one species to the virtual exclusion of all others. Transitional communities are more varied floristically. Thus retrogressive cottongrass moor also has, besides cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), heather, bilberry, cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis idaea*), crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) and the heaths (*Erica tetralix* and *E. cinerea*). Sphagnum bog shows, growing among various species of bog moss, *Cladonia* and other lichens, narrow-leaved cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), deer-grass (*Scirpus caespitosus*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*), buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*).

#### IV. Aquatic Vegetation

Most streams and rivers in the Park are too swift to allow many plants to grow. The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal contains submerged and swamp plants including Canadian water-weed (*Elodea canadensis*), curly pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), bur-reeds (*Sparganium ramosum* and *S. neglectum*) and water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*). Marshy meadows and boggy fields are the homes of a number of interesting plants including buckbean, globeflower (*Trollius europaeus*), meadow thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*) and yellowcress (*Rorippa islandica*). The common marsh plants are too numerous to mention. In shady recesses sprayed by water from the many falls, ferns, mosses and liverworts abound. The ferns include filmy ferns (*Hymenophyllum* spp.), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), beech fern (*Thelypteris phegopteris*) and mountain fern (*Thelypteris limbosperma*). Where there is more light, waterfall margins are gay with such flowers as water avens (*Geum rivale*), valerians (*Valeriana dioica* and *V. officinalis*), golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) and lady's mantle (*Alchemilla vulgaris*).

Most sheets of open water in the Park are reservoirs and floristically of little interest. A few mountain tarns such as Llyn y Fan Fawr (1,950 feet) and Llyn Cwm-llwch (1,900 feet) are still natural lakes. Poor in nutrient salts, they are barren save for a few alpine aquatics like quillwort (*Isoetes lacustris*), shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*) and pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*). Llangorse Lake (Llyn Syfaddan) has a much richer vegetation. Three and a half miles in circumference, lying in a depression surrounded by fertile rye-grass pastures and overlooked on three sides by ridges of the Black Mountains, its waters teem with life. Alder and willow groves shelter a rich woodland and



marsh flora while damp meadows and ditches display, among the reed grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), the unusual meadow rue (*Thalictrum flavum*) and great spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*). In shallow water, sedges (*Carex* spp.) mingle with buckbean, bur-reed, water horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and yellow flag (*Iris pseudacorus*), and beyond them a reed swamp stretches a hundred yards into the lake. As the water deepens, reed-grass and horsetail give way to bulrush (*Scirpus tabernaemontani*) and tall reed (*Phragmites communis*). Submerged aquatics occur in shallow water and comprise Canadian water-weed, water crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*) and the pondweeds (*Potamogeton lucens* and *P. perfoliatus*). Floating on the surface are three species of duckweed of which two (*Lemna polyrrhiza* and *L. trisulca*) are by no means common in Britain. In deep open water the dominants are water bistort (*Polygonum amphibium*), floating pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*) and the lovely fringed waterlily (*Nymphoides peltatum*) which appeared at Llangorse as late as 1936. This is related to the buckbean and is not a true waterlily. These—the white *Nymphaea alba* and the yellow *Nuphar luteum*—occur in deeper water and in the River Llynfi which drains the lake.

#### COMPONENTS OF THE FLORA OF THE PARK

About 850 species of flowering plants are indigenous to the Park. Of these, most occur throughout Britain and Europe generally, some even extending across Asia and North America. These widely distributed species are mostly common in the Park where local climate and soil are suitable.

The remainder of our native species have much narrower geographical ranges. Within the Park are representatives of flora or 'components' whose main centres range from the Arctic to the Mediterranean. In many ways, the British Isles, because of their unique geographical position, are a 'melting pot' of floras and the Brecon Beacons National Park is as interesting from this standpoint as any comparable area in Britain. Components of the British flora, whose world range is distinctly limited, are listed below, together with the names of their representatives in the Park.

I. CONTINENTAL-NORTHERN COMPONENT—distributed throughout the northern hemisphere but typically northern, taking to the mountains farther south. This group includes a number of marsh and bog plants: marsh violet (*Viola palustris*), marsh stitchwort (*Stellaria palustris*), marsh cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), marsh bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*), cranberry (*Oxycoccus palustris*), buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), broad-leaved cottongrass (*Eriophorum lati-*

*folium*), deergrass (*Scirpus caespitosus*), butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) and shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*). Other interesting species are northern bedstraw (*Galium boreale*), the birch (*Betula pubescens*) and alpine enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea alpina*).

II. CONTINENTAL-SOUTHERN COMPONENT—found in central and southern Europe, south-west Asia and North Africa. Included here are traveller's joy (*Clematis vitalba*), large-leaved lime (*Tilia platyphyllus*), shining crane's bill (*Geranium lucidum*), white bryony (*Bryonia dioica*), autumn crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*), wild arum (*Arum maculatum*) and flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*).

III. OCEANIC-NORTHERN COMPONENT—distributed around the North Atlantic in north-west Europe and eastern North America. A small group, of which water lobelia (*Lobelia dortmanna*) and bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) occur in the Park.

IV. OCEANIC-SOUTHERN COMPONENT—centred in the Mediterranean but spreading north in western Europe owing to the influence of the North Atlantic Drift. It includes bog pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*), tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*) and wall pennywort (*Umbilicus rupestris*).

V. OCEANIC-WEST EUROPEAN COMPONENT—Western Europe only, not penetrating into central Europe. This component is very well represented in the Park and includes water crowfoots (*Ranunculus lenormandi* and *R. hederaceus*), Welsh poppy (*Meconopsis cambrica*), bog St. John's wort (*Hypericum elodes*), two species of gorse (*Ulex gallii* and *U. europaeus*), Welsh stonecrop (*Sedum forsterianum*), English stonecrop (*Sedum anglicum*), bittervetch (*Vicia orobus*), water milfoil (*Myriophyllum alternifolium*), pignut (*Conopodium majus*), water hemlock (*Oenanthe crocata*), marsh bellflower (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*), the heaths (*Erica cinerea* and *E. tetralix*), spiked speedwell (*Veronica spicata*), lesser skullcap (*Scutellaria minor*) and bluebell (*Endymion non-scriptus*).

VI. NORTHERN-MONTANE COMPONENT—similar to the arctic-alpine component in distribution but not so restricted. The following species occur in the Park: globeflower (*Trollius europaeus*), stone bramble (*Rubus saxatilis*), mountain everlasting (*Antennaria dioica*), viviparous sheep's fescue (*Festuca vivipara*) and the orchid *Leucorchis albida*.

VII. ARTIC-ALPINE COMPONENT—centred chiefly in the arctic tundras and, farther south, in the alpine pastures of Eurasia and North America. The arctic-alpines of the Park include spring sandwort (*Minuartia verna*), purple saxifrage (*Saxifraga oppositifolia*), roseroot (*Sedum roseum*), cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*), least willow (*Salix herbacea*),

crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), the cottongrasses (*Eriophorum vaginatum* and *E. angustifolium*) and the parsley fern (*Cryptogramme crispa*).

VIII. ALPINE COMPONENT—in the mountains of Central Europe but not in the arctic. There are only two species in the Park, mossy saxifrage (*Saxifraga hypnoides*) and the bladder fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*).

IX. ENDEMIC COMPONENT—not found outside the British Isles. This group includes a number of whitebeam (*Sorbus*) species, relatives of the mountain ash, of very restricted range. They are limited to limestones in the Park and are well seen in Craig y Ciliau and Cwm Clydach Nature Reserves. Some occur in Cwm Taf Fawr (Plate XIV), at Craigy-nos in the Tawe valley and on Tarren yr Esgob, which towers over Capel-y-ffin. *Sorbus anglica*, *S. rupicola* and *S. porrigentifformis* have a more extensive range in Britain, but *Sorbus leyana*, *S. minima* (Fig. 6) and *S. leptophylla* are not known outside the Brecon Beacons National Park.



Fig. 6. Least whitebeam (*Sorbus minima*)



## 5

*Archaeology: Neolithic to Dark Ages*

by LESLIE ALCOCK

THE archaeological remains of the Brecon Beacons National Park present us with a microcosm of the early human settlement of Wales. This is partly because of the situation of the Park, partly because of the diversity of its relief. In essence, the Beacons and both Black Mountains form the southern extension of the central mountain massif which has been described as the heartland of Wales. But this heartland is entered by river valleys constituting the arteries of communication, such as the valley of the Towy and the Tawe from the south-west, the Usk from the south-east, and the Wye from the Herefordshire Marches and the English Midlands. Within the Park itself, a strip of low-lying land of good quality along the middle Usk is obviously attractive for human settlement. Even some of the moorlands—especially those on the southern slopes of the Park, which are at a medium altitude—are suitable for settlement during relatively warm and dry climatic phases. On the high ridges, on the other hand, man can never have settled; he would have visited them at first merely as a hunter, and in later times, as today, as a pastoralist.

The human occupation of southern England goes back into the earliest phases of the Great Ice Age, and caves along the coast of South Wales were inhabited occasionally during its later phases. No traces of these very early, Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age men have yet been found in the Park. They could not have visited it, of course, when it lay covered by the ice sheets; but they may well have come on hunting trips during the warmer interglacial phases, and their characteristic flint tools and weapons may lie buried in the limestone caves. Even during the early post-glacial period, there is no direct evidence of human activity in the area. This was the period when a tundra vegetation was gradually being replaced by forests in which the animals of chief interest to the hunter were the red deer, the roe deer and the wild ox. To kill such game, the hunters made minute flint points which served as tips and barbs for their arrows. Since flints of this kind have been found near the Park border at Craig y Llyn to the south and Clyro to the north-east, there is no doubt that careful search would discover them actually within the area, especially on the southern limestone moorlands.

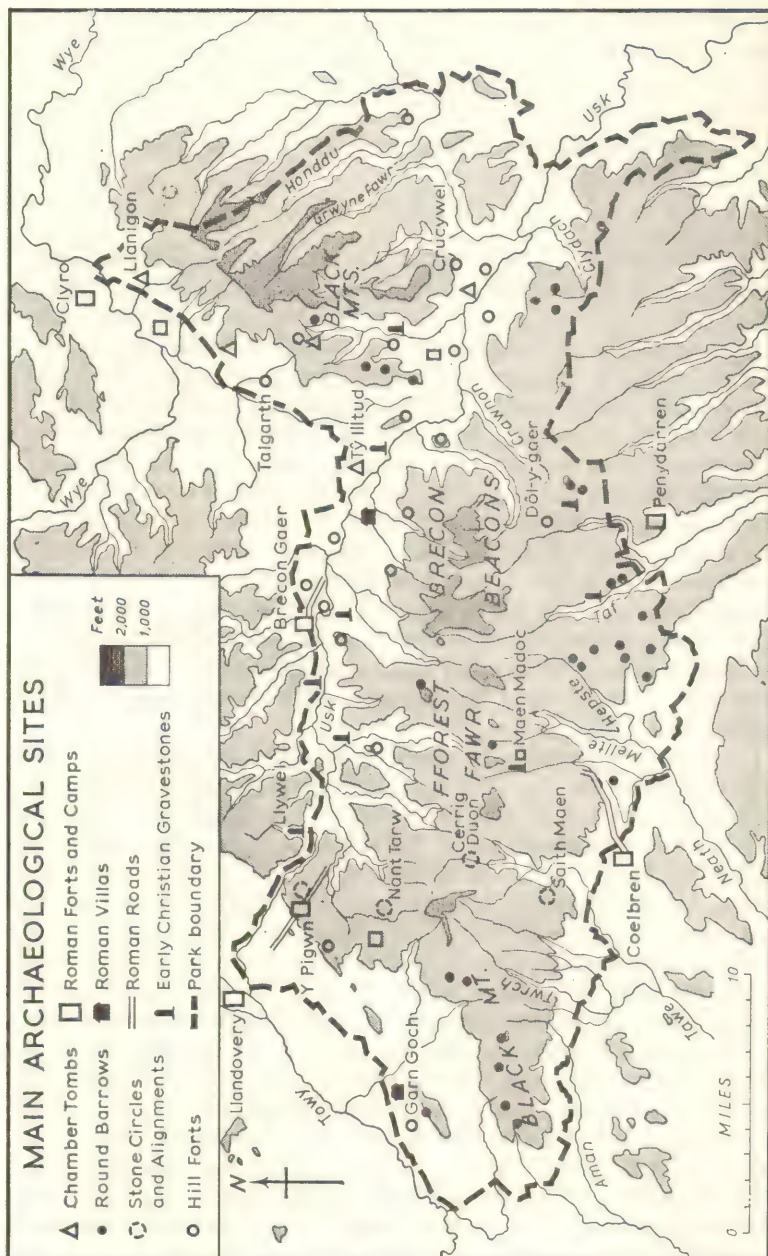


Fig. 7. The main archaeological sites of the Park



PLATES XV AND XVI. Tŷ-isaf cairn, Rhiangoll valley: south chamber and passage during excavation (*left*). Maen Madoc Incribed Stone by the Roman road from Coelbren to Y Gaer, near Brecon (*right*)







PLATE XVII. Castell Dinas, near Talgarth. A triangle of medieval banks, with cross banks, encloses a collapsed keep and a small square tower. Outside this triangle are the ramparts and ditches of an Iron Age hill-fort



PLATE XVIII. West gate and gatehouses at Y Gaer Roman fort, near Brecon

PLATE XIX. Picard's Tower, Tretower: a round keep within the remains of Picard's earlier square keep





PLATE XX. Llanthony Priory in the Vale of Ewyas, Monmouthshire, from the north

PLATE XXI. Rood screen, Patrishow Church





## THE NEOLITHIC AGE

Until about 3,000 B.C. the only human beings in the area would have been wandering bands of hunters, following the seasonal migration of game. But some five thousand years ago, at the beginning of the Neolithic or New Stone Age, communities of farmers began to migrate to Britain from more advanced regions to the south and east. Chopping down the forests with axes made of flint or fine-grained igneous rocks, and burning off the timber which they had felled, they could raise reasonable crops of corn from the virgin land. They must also have established village settlements of timber houses. But these settlements were not permanent, for intensive but inefficient farming quickly exhausted the soil and made it necessary for the community to move on to a new clearing. The migrants also introduced domesticated cattle, sheep and pigs. The grazing and browsing of these animals would have hindered the regrowth of forest on the abandoned clearings, and as a result, thorn-scrub or heath came to replace much of the old forest.

Very few traces of the houses of these Neolithic farmers have been found in Wales, and none at all in the Park. This is largely due, of course, to the perishable nature of wooden buildings. By contrast, their tombs were built to last. Essentially these tombs were stone burial vaults for whole families. The walls and roofs of the actual burial chambers were made of massive slabs of stone, while the passages which led into them were built either of upright slabs or of dry-stone walling. The whole structure was then covered by a mound or cairn of stones. Such megalithic ('big-stone') chamber tombs, encased in cairns or barrows, were widespread in the Mediterranean, in western Europe and in Scandinavia from before 3,000 to after 2,000 B.C. A study of the plans of the chambers of those in the Park has shown that their builders had come from western France to south-east Wales and the Cotswolds, and had reached Breconshire by way of the Usk valley (see Fig. 7 and Plate XV).

Because the chambers and entrance passages were completely covered with stones in order to strengthen them and also to prevent violation of the tomb, an undisturbed chamber tomb appears today merely as a stony or grassy mound. Its most interesting features are hidden and can only be revealed by careful excavation. This may show that a considerable number of bodies, accompanied by food-gifts and other material possessions, had been placed in the tomb. Even so, it is probable that the burials represent only the upper elements in Neolithic society. In some cases, however, the stones of the mound have served as a useful quarry for modern road-builders, and then the slabs of the chamber may stand exposed as a *cromlech*. Excellent examples of such *cromlech* are to be seen at Ffostyll above the middle Wye, and at

Gwernvale and Tŷ Illtud in the Usk valley. (National grid references for these and other monuments are given on pages 89–92.) In general these Breconshire tombs are built on light soils and only stunted forest would have had to be cleared before they were erected.

According to the evidence of radio-carbon dating, Neolithic farmers may have continued tilling the soil and building their tombs for over a thousand years. During this long age, they were joined by other groups, of more migratory habits, who were responsible for a widespread trade in the igneous rocks which were favoured for making stone axes. Some of the tombs could still be entered around 1,800 B.C. when they were occasionally used by a fresh element in the population. The newcomers, the 'Beaker folk' of the archaeologist, appear to have come originally from across the southern North Sea. The mainstay of their economy lay probably in the pasturing of sheep and cattle rather than in tilling the soil. They used neat triangular arrowheads of flint for hunting and perhaps also for warfare. Their chiefs wielded battle-axes of stone, and carried daggers of copper or bronze, or flint copies of such daggers. They were, indeed, the first men to use metal in these islands, and they ushered in a Copper Age which, around 1,500 B.C., was followed by the Bronze Age.

#### THE BRONZE AGE

Although a few Beaker chiefs were interred in the chamber tombs, they were buried for the most part in individual graves under circular mounds of earth or stones. These 'round barrows' are a prominent feature of the lower moors of the Park, especially those on the limestone outcrop; but they occur also on the higher sandstone ridges and plateaux. It is not clear whether this distribution implies that the actual settlements of the time were at such altitudes or whether, as is more probable, crests and skylines were chosen to give prominence to the last resting-places of nomadic chieftains. It is at least likely that the warmer climate which prevailed from about 1,800 to 600 B.C. favoured the use of the moors as pastures.

Although the round barrows appear today simply as grass-covered hummocks, excavation shows that they often cover quite complicated structures. These include rock-cut pits and cists, made of stone slabs, which sometimes have the form of a small boat, with one end rounded and the other straight. This may symbolize the boat of the dead, in which the spirit journeyed into the after-life. The body was placed in the grave with a pottery Beaker, which perhaps contained liquid refreshment for the journey. Daggers, battle-axes, arrows and jewellery were also occasionally placed with the dead person, and again we may presume that they were intended for use in the world to come. Not all

the round barrows cover Beaker burials, however. Many, perhaps a majority, were built rather later in the Bronze Age, after cremation had become the normal burial rite. The ashes of the dead were then placed in an elaborately ornamented pottery vessel. This urn was placed in a hole in the ground, or in a small slab-lined pit, and the cairn was then raised over it. Frequently, indeed, the urn was inserted into a pre-existing barrow.

The Park contains another type of monument which appears to have been erected in the Copper Age and in the early phases of the Bronze Age, namely, the circle of standing stones. There is a cluster of these, constituting one of the two Welsh concentrations of such circles, on the moors which form the western side of Fforest Fawr. Although no direct evidence has been found to date this group, inferences may be drawn from similar circles elsewhere in Britain. For instance, the earliest circle at Stonehenge has strong Welsh connections, since its stones were brought from Pembrokeshire; it was erected by the Beaker folk. The so-called Druid's Circle on Penmaenmawr Mountain in North Wales was built rather later. We should probably be correct in thinking that the circles of the Park were erected in the period 1,700-1,200 B.C. It is presumed that they served as temples, perhaps for ceremonies involving sun-worship, but few archaeologists now contemplate the idea that they were connected with the Druids. Excavation sometimes reveals the presence of burials within the circle of stones, either as dedicatory sacrifices, or else as burials at a religious site after the manner of churchyard burial. All the circles in the Park have lines of stones, and isolated outlying stones which are often of great size, associated with them.

The late phases of the Bronze Age, from 1,000 B.C. onwards, are very obscure, and have left no visible monuments in the Park. The only known settlement is in a limestone cave in the Tawe valley. Here it seems appropriate to mention that caves have provided shelter for men in many ages. Cave-dwelling is known to have occurred in Glamorgan in the Bronze and Iron Ages, in the Roman period and in the succeeding Dark Age. It is therefore to be expected that traces of similar occupation will eventually be discovered in the limestone caves of the Park. But it should be stressed that the excavation of cave deposits is a skilled and difficult task; unhappily much evidence has been lost from the Glamorgan caves as a result of incompetent excavations lightly undertaken by visitors.

#### THE IRON AGE

About 600 B.C. new invaders from Europe introduced the use of iron into South Wales. One of the chief sites of the transitional period between the Bronze and the Iron Age was at Llyn Fawr, 2½ miles



beyond the southern Park boundary near Hirwaun. Here in a small lake, set beneath a grim cirque of crags which is clearly visible from the southern slopes of the Beacons, offerings were made to the spirits of the hills and the waters. These offerings included locally made bronze axes; great cauldrons probably imported from Ireland; and the iron sword of a chieftain who had come from south-western Germany or eastern France, as well as the bronze harness-fittings of his charger. It is thought that these new invaders spoke a Celtic language; the language, that is, which was to evolve into Welsh, Cornish and Gaelic.

These immigrants made a major contribution to the archaeological monuments of the Park, for they were the first to build and inhabit strong hill-top fortifications: the 'hill-forts' of the archaeologist. The forts were built characteristically on hills of middling height, to serve as refuges and cattle pounds for tribes, clans or mere family groups, who cultivated the land below the forts, or grazed their flocks and herds around them. Some forts, indeed, were permanently occupied by families living in circular wooden or stone houses. The houses have, of course, decayed, but their traces may sometimes be recovered by careful excavation. The forts in the Park lie mostly below 1,400 feet on either side of the Usk valley, or upslope in the wide trough between Brecon and the middle Wye; that is to say, they overlook the best agricultural land. But it should not be thought that they control the valleys or dominate them in any strategic sense, for the range of the fort-dwellers' weapons was limited to about one hundred yards, the accurate range of the ribbon-sling. Nor is there evidence that hill-forts were ever the scene of serious assaults, still less of sieges, until the Romans undertook the conquest of Britain. Their function was rather to provide temporary safety against slave- and cattle-raiders.

Among the score or so of forts, of varying size and form, which lie within the Park, two may be singled out for mention. Crucywel, set on Table Mountain at the south end of a ridge of the Black Mountains, is a simple enclosure, defended by a single stone wall, and may represent an early form of Iron Age defence. It is noteworthy for its splendid position, as is Castell Dinas, which is shown on Plate XVII. By contrast, Pen-y-crug above Brecon shows the final elaboration of fortification achieved in the Iron Age. A rounded hill-top is defended by no fewer than five earthen ramparts and ditches, towering one above another to provide a formidable series of obstacles to daunt any would-be attacker.

#### THE ROMAN PERIOD

The inhabitants of the forts probably belonged to a tribe known as the Silures, for these were the people whom the Romans encountered in south-east Wales when they undertook its conquest. The Silures,

indeed, presented the Roman armies with their first serious check after their relatively easy conquest of southern England in the years A.D. 43-50. Aided by the tangled, wooded terrain, the Silures resisted for about a quarter of a century. During this time, the Romans marched widely over their territory, doubtless building temporary camps for the protection of troops on campaign. There are two excellent examples of such temporary camps at Y Pigwn on the summit of Trecastle Mountain. Today the grassy ramparts look feeble, yet they probably once protected the tents of over ten thousand troops. Despite the size of the force which they deployed, the Romans suffered a number of defeats at the hands of the Silures and had to abandon the attempt to build permanent forts, including, perhaps, one just beyond the north-western boundary of the Park at Llandovery.

By A.D. 79, however, the whole of Wales was more or less subdued. It was then garrisoned by a number of regiments of five hundred or a thousand men each, housed in permanent forts which were linked together by metalled roads. Such forts are known near the Park boundary at Llandovery on the north-west, and at Coelbren and Penydarren on the south, while another fort is believed to have existed at Abergavenny. Within the Park itself, one of the best known examples of an excavated Roman fort is to be seen at Y Gaer, just west of Brecon. This displays the characteristic rectangular plan of Roman defences, achieved here at first with an earthen bank and ditch. Later a stone wall was added in front of the bank and the original timber gates were rebuilt in stone (Plate XVIII). Part of the wall and some of the stone gates and towers of Y Gaer are open for inspection. Excavation of the interior of the fort showed that the barracks for the troops were of wood, but the administrative buildings, the commandant's quarters and the granary were all rebuilt in stone at the same time as the gates. The garrison consisted at first of five hundred cavalrymen recruited in Spain. In the late second century, however, its size was reduced, and after about A.D. 200 it may have been withdrawn altogether. During the period of military occupation, a small settlement grew up outside the fort where the Silures might trade with the troops.

Well-engineered roads ran from fort to fort, so that the countryside could be patrolled and garrisons could support one another in moments of danger. In later centuries the roads became grassed-over, and many of them have vanished completely, but a particularly fine stretch can still be walked leading north-east from Coelbren in the direction of the Brecon Gaer. Another runs along the crest of Mynydd Bach Tre Castell, past Y Pigwn camp. It has also sometimes been suggested that the trackway which crosses the Beacons from the Taf Fechan valley to Cwm Cynwyn is a Roman road. It is indeed probable that there was a

road more or less on this line, but there is nothing specifically Roman about the existing bridleway.

The Roman occupation of our area was essentially a military matter. Except for the traders' booths outside the Brecon Gaer, and a small bath-house of civilian type erected within the fort after some of the abandoned barracks had been demolished, there are few traces of the civilized amenities which the Romans introduced in lowland England. In particular, there are no Roman towns in the area, and only two Roman villas. Probably built by native aristocrats with Roman tastes, one was found in 1783 at Llanfrynach, south-east of Brecon, but nothing is now to be seen at the site. The other, at Llys Brychan, 2 miles south of Llangadog, proved to be a substantial villa when excavated in 1961. Such discoveries suggest that other villas may await discovery, especially along the Usk valley.

#### THE EARLY CHRISTIAN PERIOD

The end of Roman rule in the Park, as in Britain generally, is obscure, and ushers in an even darker age. In the fifth and sixth centuries there came into being a political unit which corresponded very closely with the Brecon Beacons Park, except that the Carmarthen Black Mountain lay outside it. This principedom of Brycheiniog was ruled by a dynasty of Irish ancestry. The evidence for this lies partly in garbled folk-memories preserved into the Middle Ages, partly, and more securely, in a dozen or so gravestones which bear inscriptions in Irish, or Latin, or both. Some of these can still be seen on the moors south of the Beacons watershed, or in churches or churchyards in the Usk valley. It has been suggested that they represent an eastward movement from an Irish colony in Pembrokeshire, but it is more likely that the dynasty came up the Usk valley, occupying the fertile region around Brecon, and then spread on to the moors to secure summer grazing. It is not impossible that it was responsible for a very crude refortification of the Brecon Gaer, and that the moors were approached by way of the Roman roads which fanned out from the fort, for some of the gravestones were set up beside the roads (Plate XVI). However that may be, the Latin inscriptions on some of the stones make it certain that the dynasty was Christian. Moreover, the distribution of the stones falls clearly within the eastern, western and southern boundaries of the principedom of Brycheiniog. Henceforward, our area passes into the field of medieval history.



## *Medieval to Modern Times: The Changing Landscape*

by MARGARET DAVIES

By 1066 the Welsh had been driven back from Offa's Dyke to the Golden Valley (Fig. 8). The Norman Conquest initiated two centuries of warfare in the area which is now the Brecon Beacons National Park. In 1067 Norman castles were built at Clifford and Ewyas Lacy and by 1088 Bernard Newmarch (Neufmarché), a baron who had come from Normandy with William I, moved up the Wye valley from Hay into the Welsh territory of Brycheiniog. Like the Romans, the Normans built their control points in valleys and passes and aimed at containment of the hill country. Newmarch advanced along the Talgarth Gap, building the first castles of Hay, Bronllys and Talgarth in 1088 and that at Brecon in 1091-93. Many motte and bailey castles survive around Talgarth. A motte, which could be thrown up in a minimum of eight days, was topped by a wooden palisade. The Bayeux Tapestry shows one being built and another being burnt. Stone keeps soon replaced the first wooden strongholds (Plate XIX).

From Brecon, Newmarch moved south-eastward down the Usk valley. The Norman strongpoints there, at Pencelli, Blaenllynfi, Tretower and Crickhowell, were granted to knights; Tretower was granted to Picard and Crickhowell to de Turberville. The Usk valley east of the Grwyne Fawr confluence was controlled from Abergavenny. Its first castle was built before 1090 by Hamelin de Balun whose Marcher Lordship of Abergavenny reached south to Pontypool and north to the River Monnow. Norman control in Carmarthenshire was partly secured via the Towy estuary and lower valley in 1093. The Towy valley, like other Norman invasion routes, was dominated by its castles. Conquests by Norman over Welsh lords resulted in Norman occupation of entire Welsh territories. Thus Newmarch, by conquest of the Welsh principedom of Brycheiniog, became Marcher Lord of Brecon. These Marcher Lordships of the Marches and south of Wales were largely independent of the king.

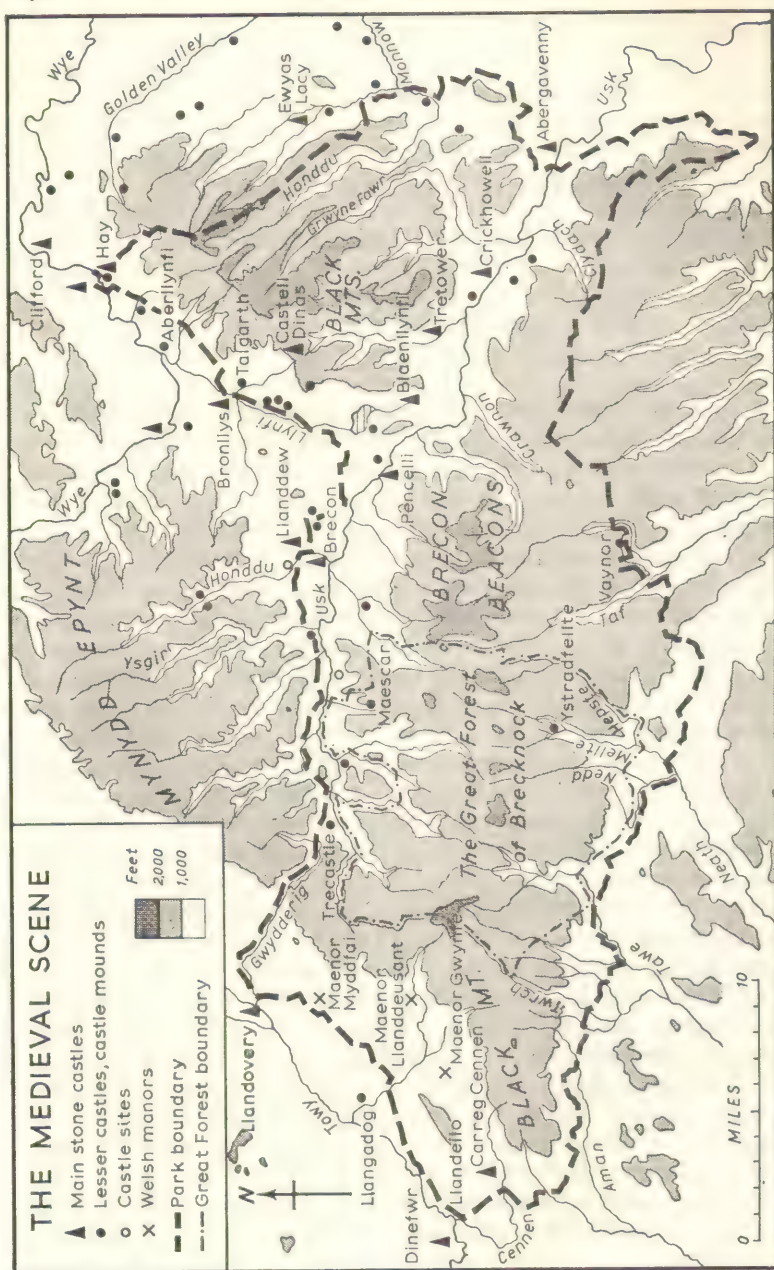


Fig. 8. Medieval features of the landscape of the Park



PLATE XXII. Carreg Cennen Castle, Carmarthenshire

PLATE XXIII. Tretower Court: gatehouse in centre







PLATE XXIV. Bridge over the River Usk, Llangynidr, Breconshire: built about 1600

PLATE XXV. Brecon from the north-west



## THE MEDIEVAL LANDSCAPE

The largest lordship in the Park, Newmarch's Marcher Lordship of Brecon, extended from Blaenllynfi and Vaynor to the western boundary of the Great Forest of Brecknock. The large motte and bailey at Trecastle, near its west boundary, was held by the Lord Marcher. His main stronghold was Brecon where a Benedictine priory, and a walled borough to shelter his followers, were built in the shelter of the castle (Plate XXV). Most pre-industrial Welsh towns were centred on Norman or Edwardian castles and were for centuries disliked by the countryfolk. The medieval burgesses of Brecon levied tolls on goods circulating within 15 miles of the borough.

To the rural lowlands the invaders from England brought their manorial system. Cultivation in common fields was characteristic and the strips of arable and meadowland which it imposed on the landscape could be seen around Bronllys and Talgarth until the mid-nineteenth century. The third element in manorial cultivation, common pasture, is widespread today on all the mountains in the Park. Breconshire has c. 150,000 acres of common grazings, much the highest total of any Welsh county.

The Welsh pre-Norman system had similar features. The Carmarthenshire section of the Park lay in Cantref Bychan (a *cantref* contained 100 *trefi* or villages). In this cantref were three Welsh manors, Maenor Myddfai, Llandeusant and Gwynfe (Fig. 8). Here, and in the hills—the Welshries—of Hay, Brecon and Blaenllynfi lordships, Welsh manors and customs continued after the English pattern was imposed on the lowlands. There the manorial tenants worked on the lord's demesne, growing wheat, oats, barley and buckwheat in the common fields, tending the lord's herds and gathering his hay. The more independent hill peoples paid money and food rents rather than feudal services to their lords. The few Domesday entries from the Welsh Marches show that the dues of honey and cattle formerly paid by freemen to their Welsh lords were now rendered to the Normans. Food rents of flour, meat, butter and cheese came from small common fields and from flocks which moved up to common pastures on the high hills in summer. The Welsh freemen often lived in farms scattered over the hillsides but there were also Welsh bondsmen's hamlets clustered around the Welsh lord's manor house. The lord's land around this Welsh bond tref was tended, as were his flocks, by the bondsmen.

The pattern of settlement imposed over a thousand years ago by Welsh and Norman manorial tenure dominates the landscape of the Park today. The higher mountains are uninhabited and are largely unenclosed common pasture. From around 1,000 feet down to the lowlands scattered hill farms and small hamlets are characteristic. Larger



villages which originated as clusters of farms on the English manorial pattern, and a few formerly fortified boroughs, dominate the Llynfi and Usk lowlands along which the Normans invaded and settled.

Cultivation of the valleys and use of the common hill pastures gradually expanded until several outbreaks of the Black Death between 1349 and 1413 reduced the labour force and until the lord's mills, crops, manor houses and castles were destroyed in the Glyndwr Revolt of 1400-12. Between 1100 and 1350 the valleys and lower hillsides would have been laid down in meadow and arable land and much woodland cleared to provide building timber. Tenants had housebote and heybote rights in the lords' woods and exercised them for centuries near Llandovery and in Fenni Wood west of Brecon. The period was far from peaceful and tenants were often ordered to fell woods because they offered cover for robbers and Welsh guerrillas. Cattle, and after the thirteenth century, sheep, would also prevent regeneration by eating seedling trees on their way up the hillsides. It is possible that the hillsides along the Usk and its main tributaries were as populous in the early fourteenth century as they are now. Two thousand Welsh freemen of Brecon Lordship did fealty through an interpreter at that time. In the villages there would also be many cottars, both bondmen and bondwomen working in the fields. A band of a dozen women from Llanfaes lived by netting Llangorse Lake. Its plentiful coarse fish and eels provided food for several other villages and for the Benedictine monks at Brecon Priory.

#### THE GREAT FOREST OF BRECKNOCK

This forest occupied a large part of Brecon Lordship, extending from the Tarell and Hepste valleys westward to the Carmarthenshire border (Fig. 9). It was a common pasture to which the tenants of the surrounding manors sent their beasts. Much of it is over 1,500 feet high and though its valleys once had dense forests it was never a continuous woodland in historic times. It was originally a royal hunting forest but was farmed out by the Crown after the Middle Ages. Called Great Forest (Fforest Fawr) to distinguish it from Fforest Fach on its north side, it remained Crown land until the early nineteenth century, when 40,000 acres were still unenclosed. The game laws of the Great Forest were relaxed by Richard III who also reduced the annual grazing charge for cattle from 3d. to 1d. a head. For centuries afterwards tenants paid 1d. for each cow or horse and 4d. for a score of sheep. In 1650 over 5,000 pennies were paid by the tenants for beasts grazed; by then sheep would have predominated. The Great Forest was surveyed and enclosed in 1815-19. The cost of the enclosure, £16,000, was met by selling 8,000 acres of the better valley land of the Forest. This, with



earlier piecemeal enclosure, retracted the 1819 boundary to the line shown on Fig. 9. The Forest valleys produced corn which was

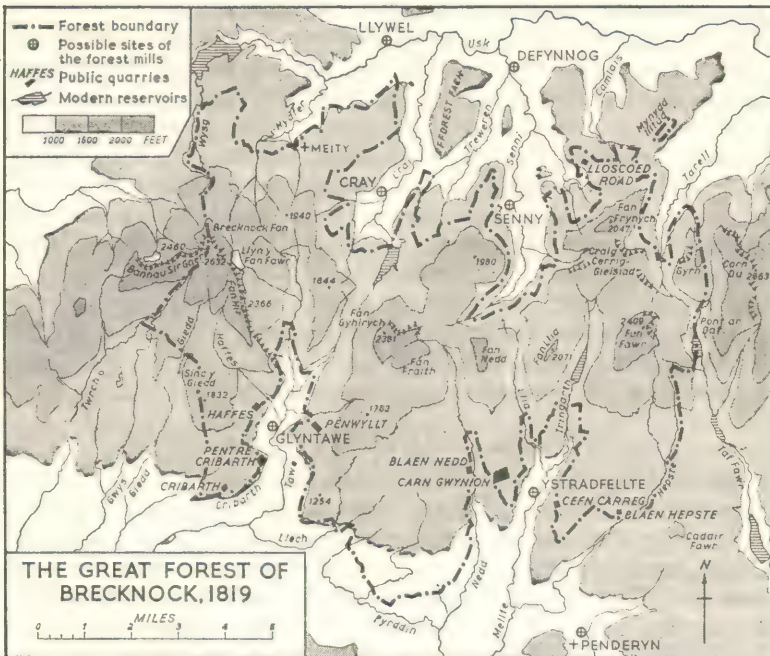


Fig. 9. Fforest Fawr in 1819

ground at its seven water mills. These mills were still working in the seventeenth century when they were sold by Cromwell's agents. The right of tenants to lime their land was granted at an early date and was recognized at the enclosure by the allocation of public limestone quarries. Access to these by commoners, and to the 17,106 acres of upland grazing (in two large blocks) which they were awarded in 1819, was often less satisfactory than it had been before enclosure.

In the fifteenth century, after bubonic plague had reduced their tenantry and the Glyndwr Revolt had made rent collection difficult, lords of manors let parts of their demesne land to farmers who enclosed this land in hedges. The common field system in which a man tilled scattered strips and dwelt in a cluster of farms gradually gave place to one in which the farms were scattered and hedged fields were grouped around them. Farmers added field to field and some became prominent Tudor squires. A Carmarthenshire descendant of Welsh princes, Sir

Rhys ap Thomas of Dinefwr and Carreg Cennen Castles, helped to put the first Tudor on the English throne. In Breconshire the prominent Tudor families included Games of Newton (David Gam had led many Breconshire archers to Agincourt), the Prices who bought Brecon Priory in 1542 and the Vaughans of Tretower. Fine Tudor houses were built on their demesnes and fortification was now deemed unnecessary. Already in the fifteenth century uncomfortable castle keeps had been abandoned for manor houses, but these had still been castellated. Picard's Tower and the adjoining manor house at Tretower (Plate XXIII) provide a fascinating architectural sequence. Welsh squires were welcomed at the Tudor courts and were involved in English trading and educational ventures. In 1571 Jesus College, Oxford, was founded by a Price of Brecon Priory: it has kept its Welsh connections. Contacts with England meant that innovations in farming spread more readily into Wales. The Marcher Lordships and the strife associated with them disappeared in the Acts of Union of 1536 and 1542 when the Welsh counties, and their present boundaries, were established.

#### INDUSTRY AND ITS EFFECT ON THE LANDSCAPE

From the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries the people of the Park tended their crops and flocks, marketed their produce and spun and wove wool. Coarse cloth was made in their homes and later in small water mills and the women knitted and sold stockings. Most streams had their flour and fulling mills. A fulling mill or *pandy* sometimes gave its name to a hamlet, e.g. Pandy on the River Honddu in Monmouthshire. In the nineteenth century most of the woollen mills, and flannel mills like that at Hay, were gradually abandoned.

The sixteenth century saw the adoption of the blast furnace and the spread of the iron industry from the Weald to areas with ore, limestone and wood supplies, and swift streams. The south-western and south-eastern fringes of the Park had all these and around 1600 a forge was built on each bank of the Clydach, the swift stream which joins the Usk near Gilwern. The woodlands of the Clydach gorge provided charcoal: the visitor can see traces of charcoal-burning there today. Coal for the farmsteads was also won in the seventeenth century in the Clydach valley. Here, on the northern fringe of the coalfield, coal and ironstone outcrops were worked in small drifts (hillside adits which follow the seams), or in surface 'patches', the precursors of modern opencast workings. The forges in the Clydach gorge worked intermittently during the eighteenth century. There were also eighteenth-century forges up the Honddu at Brecon, at Llandyfân on the Loughor River in Carmarthenshire and at Glangrwyne near the confluence of the Grwyne Fawr and Usk rivers. Garnddyrys near Abergavenny was a

later forge. These forges sometimes relied on pig iron sent from larger ironworks outside the Park. Llandyfân was supplied from Ynyscedwyn in the Tawe valley and Garnddyrys from Blaenavon. They succumbed to competition from the 'heads of the valleys' ironworks beyond the southern boundary of the Park. The ruins of one of these larger ironworks, that founded at Hirwaun in 1757, are on the Park boundary. The steel industry has moved southward again. Before coke replaced charcoal the demands of the forges and the ironworks had wrought havoc in the accessible woodlands of the Park.

The first effects of the Industrial Revolution were felt on the fringes of the South Wales coalfield, notably on its North Crop. Migration from the rural areas of the Park was initiated and depopulation continued when large-scale coal mining was extended in the mid-nineteenth century into the heart of the coalfield and into the Carmarthenshire anthracite coalfield. The latter includes the Aman valley on the south-west border of the Park. By 1851 there were 10,000 Breconshire-born people in Glamorgan and 7,000 in Monmouthshire. This migration left in its wake abandoned farmsteads and cottages, untended marginal land and broken field walls. Its effects were felt throughout the Park and are most clearly seen in the upper valleys of the Black Mountains of Breconshire and Monmouthshire.

Rural Carmarthenshire, Breconshire and Monmouthshire made other contributions to the coalfield, notably food, finance (Brecon Old Bank made many loans to the ironmasters) and limestone. Many of the limestone cliffs in the south of the Park are scarred by quarrying and three large quarries, Cwar yr Hendre and Cwar yr Ystrad, between the Taf Fechan and Cwannon valleys, and that in the Clydach valley, still supply metallurgical limestone to Ebbw Vale steelworks.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

No other National Park provides walking routes and bridleways on such a variety of communications which have otherwise outlived their usefulness. There are lanes which have supported a variety of wheels, be they those of Roman chariots, stage coaches or country carts, but which rarely take modern cars. Such are the Trecastle-Llandovery mountain road past Y Pigwn Roman camps, and the Roman road which leads from the Park boundary near Coelbren north-eastward into the heart of Fforest Fawr. This road continued from the upper Llia valley along the hillside to Forest Lodge and to the Brecon Gaer. There are drove roads trodden out by flocks moving to the Midlands for fattening. Such is the green road running northwards from the pass at Storey Arms along the hillsides east of the Tarell valley. There are paths on former railroads along which horse-drawn trams rattled between the



ironworks, the limestone and silica quarries and the canals. There is the Brecon-Newport canal, still supplying water for industry, but with no commercial traffic since 1932, and the spectacular Brecon-Newport and Brecon-Neath railways from which passengers may no longer enjoy fine views.

The first road improvements by Turnpike Trusts in the Park date from 1767. The turnpike road on which farmers brought lime from the Aman to the Towy valley was built over the Carmarthenshire Black Mountain after 1790. This road is now A 4069. The Trecastle-Llandovery mountain road, an early turnpike on which oxen waited to haul coaches up from Llandovery, was replaced by the valley road (A 40) early in the nineteenth century. Turnpikes were built to link Brecon with Merthyr Tydfil (now A 470) and with the Neath and Tawe valleys. The Crickhowell-Talgarth road past Castell Dinas and the attractive road from Crickhowell to Brecon along the south side of the Usk valley date from about 1830. A century ago the road which is now A 40 carried fast stage coaches between London and Milford Haven, wagons taking sawn oak timber from Brecon to the Cardigan Bay shipyards to build small schooners, and local donkey carts and Cardy carts carrying food to the iron towns. Cardy carts came from Carmarthenshire as well as Cardiganshire, which they left on Monday. They moved along the turnpikes in groups of about a dozen and returned home on Saturday. One of their overnight halts was in Llanfaes, where lorries halt today, and loaded Cardy carts were lined up outside Christ College. They carried kegs of salted butter and, in the colder months, unsalted dressed pigs, travelling to Merthyr by the turnpike past Storey Arms (A 470) and to the Monmouthshire iron towns by the Llangynidr-Beaufort route (B 4560).

The Brecon-Newport canal runs for 32 miles through the Park, mainly along the Usk valley and almost wholly along the hillsides as a contour canal. There are therefore fine views for those who walk its towpath and it is also used for pleasure boating and fishing. It was built to serve the ironworks and to exchange food, timber and coal between Brecon and Newport. Different sections of it were opened between 1797 and 1812 when there was through traffic between Brecon and Newport. This reduced the price of a hundredweight of coal in Brecon from 14d. to 9d. Fifty years later the railways began to attract its traffic and by 1900 only the market boat from Brecon ran regularly along its whole length once a week.

Several tramroads connected the ironworks or their limestone workings with the canal. They can be walked today and can be seen notched into the cliffs of the Clydach gorge. This carried the Brynmawr-Gilwern tramroad, completed in 1804 and now the route of part of the

new 'Heads of the Valleys' trunk road, and Bailey's Tramroad (1822). The latter ran from Bailey's Nantyglo works through Brynmawr and along the south side of the gorge to Govilon. After 1862 the narrow gorge also carried the railway up from Abergavenny. All are now abandoned though Welshmen still sing of the peculiarities of Crawshay Bailey's engine. From Blaenavon works a tramroad was built in 1825 to Garnddyrys forge and along the west slope of the Blorenge to Llanfoist Wharf on the canal (Plate XXVI). Two tramroads which are now interesting footpaths were built in 1815 and 1816. In 1815 Benjamin Hall, who gave his name to Big Ben, initiated the Bryn Oer Tramroad to connect Buckland House Wharf on the canal with Rhymney ironworks. It ran from the canal up the hillsides east of Talybont Reservoir to the head of Dyffryn Cwannon and southward past Trefil limestone quarries. The tramroad built in 1816 ran from Llangattock quarries (these include Craig y Ciliau Nature Reserve) round the east edge of Mynydd Llangatwg to Brynmawr. It is now a level 5-mile track with splendid views over the Black Mountains and the Usk valley. On the short lengths of tramroad which linked the silica works round Pontneddfechan with the Vale of Neath Canal walkers now step on the stone chairs which carried the track.

The Brecon-Hay railway, partly the Park boundary, was built as a tramroad in 1816 and became a railway in 1864. It continues the line of the Newport-Brecon railway completed through the beautiful Taf Fechan and Talybont valleys in 1863 over some unusual gradients. The Neath-Brecon railway partly followed the route of the Forest Tramroad which was built about 1826 by John Christie who bought part of the Great Forest after the 1819 enclosure. It carried coal and lime from his workings northward to Sennybridge. In 1834 it was connected to the Swansea Valley Canal at Ynyscedwyn. The Neath-Brecon railway was opened in 1867 and, like other lines in the Park, was closed to passengers in 1962.

Between the Brecon Beacons National Park and the Bristol Channel lies a densely peopled industrial area in which the relatively few unpolluted streams have been contributing water for industrial or domestic use for many years. By the end of the nineteenth century the coalfield and its ports looked northwards for water supplies. There are now sixteen reservoirs in the Park. The main ones are those in the Taf Fawr valley, built for Cardiff between 1892 and 1927; the Taf Fechan group which serve many communities in the coalfield and were built between 1895 and 1927; Newport's Talybont Reservoir and Swansea's Cray and Usk Reservoirs. The latter, in the upper Usk valley above Trecastle, is the most recent. These artificial lakes, and the largely coniferous plantations of the water boards and of the Forestry

Commission, have produced the most rapid of all the changes which have affected the landscape of the Park.

Few of the state forests are more than 25 years old. As they mature their sometimes over-stark outlines may mellow and coniferous forest may become an accepted feature of the middle elevations and long dip slopes of the south of the Park. The moorlands which now predominate there replace deciduous forests cleared by man over many centuries. Already the sound of the chainsaw and the timber lorries on the roads signify the arrival of an industry which supplies the mines, sawmills and pulp mills of South Wales. Forest trails offer the walker interest and shelter from high winds and several car parks and picnic sites have been made for visitors in the forests.

The Norman strongholds are picturesque ruins, the common fields and the corn mills which they sustained have vanished; the valley villages and hillside farms lie in a patchwork of well-hedged fields. The scars left by charcoal burning and extractive industry have partly healed. The high hills, from the Black Mountain of Carmarthenshire, over Fforest Fawr and the Brecon Beacons to the Black Mountains of Monmouthshire, still carry their sheep flocks, cattle and ponies on a vast acreage of common grazings. Hill and valley combine to offer to the visitor some of the most beautiful and least spoilt landscapes in Britain.



# 7

## *Recreation*

### I. WALKING AND PONY-TREKKING

*by* ERIC BARTLETT

THE Brecon Beacons National Park encompasses ideal country for the ridge walker and pony-trekker. In the Black Mountains of Breconshire and Monmouthshire, in the Brecon Beacons, and in the Black Mountain of Carmarthenshire, many miles of glorious ridge walking and riding are open to the energetic. Here one may journey most of the day above 2,000 feet with magnificent views to all points of the compass. Paths above the tree line, if they exist at all, are seldom marked by cairns, hence the need for sensible use of Ordnance Survey map and compass, especially under mist conditions. In winter snow and ice only experienced, fully-equipped walkers should take to the hills. A mountain rescue service, consisting of volunteer teams, is available to walkers in serious difficulty. Requests for help should be made through the police.

One-inch Ordnance Survey maps (or  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch sheets if greater detail is required) are also essential to enable the walker to follow footpaths and bridleways through farmland to the higher ground, and to enjoy the many interesting walks through the wooded valleys of the Park. The Brecon 1-inch sheet (141) covers much of the Park and parts of sheets 140, 142, 153, 154 and 155 complete the cover. Sketch maps of the Park and several leaflets describing rural pursuits and natural history are available at the information centres (see page 96). Some sign-posting and waymarking of footpaths has been carried out, particularly in the eastern section of the Park.

Six youth hostels, listed on page 97, serve the Park and are of special interest to the Rambler, cyclist, pony-trekker and canoeist. The hostels vary from the small, cottage type to larger, well-equipped hostels able to take bigger parties.

Excellent walking routes can be followed between hostels as, for example, the splendid ridge walk from Crickhowell to Capel-y-ffin via Table Mountain (topped by Crucywel Iron Age Fort), Pen Cerrig Calch, Pen Allt Mawr, Mynydd Llysiau, Waun Fach, Rhos Dirion and the Tumpa, or from Rhos Dirion down the beautiful Nant y Bwch to Capel-y-ffin. Ponies are taken along many of the higher levels of this

ridge walk (Plate XXVII). From Ty'n-y-caeau hostel, near Brecon, to Llwyn-y-celyn, downslope from A 470, one takes the Brecon Beacons ridge walk via Cantref, Bryn Teg, Cribyn (2,608 feet), Pen y Fan (2,907 feet), Corn Du (2,863 feet) and the Tommy Jones obelisk, then west-north-west across Glyn Tarell to Llwyn-y-celyn. An easier ascent from Cantref is that up the Cwm Cynwyn bridleway. From Llanddeusant hostel, above the lovely Sawdde valley, the ridge walks of the Carmarthenshire Black Mountain are readily accessible, as are many moorland walks at lower levels. The canal towpath from Brecon to the Park boundary east of Pontypool provides walks and views over scenes of quiet beauty, and from it there are long vistas over the Usk valley and its neighbouring hills. In the east of the Park these include the Sugar Loaf, an attraction for many walkers. Further details of routes and points to visit are outlined in Chapter 9, and in leaflets obtainable from the Park's information centres, including the Monmouthshire Park Planning Committee's pamphlet '30 Walks'.

Since 1956 pony-trekking has been developed in the eastern half of the Park. The centres listed on page 96 cater for both the beginner and the more experienced rider. Sturdy Welsh ponies and cobs are mostly used, ranging from 12 to 15 hands; most hilltops and the roughest of country are accessible to these sure-footed animals. Like their riders, ponies differ in temperament and habits and part of the fun of trekking lies in getting to know the ponies as well as one's fellow riders.

To go pony-trekking the visitor need not be an experienced rider (in fact, many trekkers have never ridden before), but the novice will get more enjoyment from a trekking holiday if a little practice can be obtained beforehand. However, most centres make arrangements for beginners and lack of experience or opportunity need not deter anyone.

It is advisable to wear stout shoes or boots without nails or projecting treads (wellingtons are preferred by some riders, except in very hot weather), one or two pairs of thick socks (long ones prevent chafing of the legs), slacks or jodhpurs (not shorts), with thickish underpants, windcheater and waterproof. Mackintoshes are preferable to capes which blow about in the wind, especially on high ground. In wet weather light waterproof over-trousers are invaluable. Woollen or string gloves and a spare pullover are useful in windy and wet weather, even in summer. Two straps, or short lengths of string, will secure a rolled waterproof in front of the saddle. A light shoulder bag that hangs to the rider's side is useful for sandwiches, surgical spirit, salve-cream and talc to ease soreness. A rucksack or camera should not be slung on the back where it will bounce about and could cause injury in a fall. Novices should not carry a thermos or glass bottle but a plastic flask is very useful. The

pony-trekker is a thirsty traveller. Fresh fruit is welcome during the day and some of the ponies may enjoy the apple cores at the end of it.

Trekking centres vary in their routine, but the sensible trekker soon adjusts himself to the small differences in emphasis at each establishment. Unlike bicycles, ponies react to one another, and the trekker must at all times consider less experienced riders and obey his guide's instructions. A pony-trekking holiday provides good fellowship with man and beast, healthy exercise with opportunities to develop riding skill and knowledge, and from his seat in the saddle the trekker has a delightfully fresh and far-ranging view over fence and hedgerow, and, in this Park, over great sweeps of moorland, to a countryside where the horse is still very much in its element.

## II. CAVES AND CAVING

by GORDON WARWICK

A belt of limestone outcrops along the southern fringe of the Park and is particularly rich in caves of various types (see Fig. 3 and Plates VIII and IX); the limestone surface is pocked with conical-shaped depressions known as sink holes, shake holes or *dolines*. Among the caves is Agen Allwedd, the 'key fissure', near Llangattock (1-inch sheet 141: SO/188158). With over 9 miles of passages it is one of our longest caves. The caves are largely formed by solution of the limestone by water, derived from rain and snow, which has been turned into a weak acid by dissolved carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and from the soil-air (resulting from decay of plant matter). Water percolating through the soil and rock enlarges the natural openings such as bedding planes which separate individual beds of rock, or joints or cracks which partition the beds, often in regular systems. This downward movement ceases when the zone of saturation is reached; here flow is directed by the head of water above the rivers which drain the water away.

The simplest type of cave was formed when acting as the outlet of a spring and such caves may be left high and dry if the river into which they discharge starts to cut down, forming a gorge, in response to uplift of the land or to a fall in sea-level. This has happened several times in Mid-Wales. Such springs may have been fed by water moving through a complicated network of passages: these too may be emptied if the rivers cut down. Seepage water can become concentrated in such passages so forming underground streams, leaving the branch passages dry; this occurs in Agen Allwedd. Occasionally discharge of under-



ground water may be in the form of a stream issuing from a cave mouth as at Dan yr Ogof in the Tawe valley (SN/838160), now reopened to the public. It is Dan yr Ogof, not the lower Giedd, which is the outlet of the water which plunges into Sinc y Giedd, 2 miles north-west of the cave. Across the valley Ffynnon Ddu (Black Spring: SN/848153) issues from a dark portal whose roof quickly descends to water-level and whose inner recesses are too narrow for divers to penetrate. However, a lucky dig nearby provided an entry; but the passage occupied by the spring proved to be only part of the great Ogof Ffynnon Ddu complex. Later surveys showed this to be the longest and deepest in Britain. The main feeder of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu is Pwll Byfre (SN/875166).

Other cave systems occur where surface streams disappear underground, sometimes into an open entrance, as at Porth yr Ogof which swallows the Mellte River at the end of a steep, rocky gorge (SN/928124). In most places the entrance is clogged with debris which excavation has shown in some cases to be over 80 feet thick. Many streams which flow south and out of the Park disappear in this manner, but few have been explored. A few of these inlet caves have steep vertical sections or pitches, making them potholes; such is Pwll Dwfn (SN/834165). These potholes require portable ladders for their descent and should not be tackled by beginners. Caves with active streams in them have their beds scoured by the debris carried by the streams. Roof collapse may also produce subsidence and cause surface shake holes.

The more accessible caves have been known and described for many years (Porth yr Ogof, especially, attracted the topographers), but few of the others received much attention until Dr. North published *The River Scenery at the Head of the Vale of Neath* in 1930. Serious exploration did not begin until the late 1930s when the Dragon Group of the Wessex Caving Club and a group of the Mendip Exploration Society started to concentrate on the Neath and Tawe valleys. In 1946 the South Wales Caving Club was formed and, stimulated by the discovery of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, has led the way to other notable finds such as the extensions of Tunnel Cave and of nearby Dan yr Ogof; Pant Mawr Pothole, 65 feet deep, in the upper Neath valley, and the entrance passages of Agen Allwedd. Later the Hereford Caving Club was formed and its members broke through the barrier of fallen rock which blocked the further reaches of Agen Allwedd. The British Nylon Spinners Caving Club also explored this last cave and has recorded many small caves in the south-east of the Park. Other active parties came from London (members of the Chelsea Speleological Society), North Wales (members of the British Speleological Association) and Gloucester (Gloucester Speleological Society). Dan yr Ogof and part of Tunnel Cave are open to the public.

Cavers are often asked why they indulge in their strange sport, and most cite as a prime incentive the possibility of discovering something new where man has never trod before. Others find in it a comradeship and enjoy pitting their wits and strength against natural obstacles. Some caves in the Park may be explored by the beginner, but he is well advised to join a club to be properly trained and to equip himself with the right clothing and lighting equipment. Danger does lurk in some of these caves for the unwary and even the most experienced may meet with an accident. If this happens, the cave rescue organisations at Penwyllt and elsewhere (see page 95) can be called out when the police are notified. The would-be caver is also advised to read something about the sport in some of the books listed on page 79, notably the chapters on cave exploration by Lewis Railton in *British Caving*, edited by C. H. D. Cullingford. There is also an excellent guide to the Welsh caves by David Jenkins and Ann Mason-Williams. For those interested in the scientific exploration of caves various chapters in *British Caving* give general information about the caves of South Wales and detailed bibliographies. The Park Information Centres' Leaflet 3 is devoted to caving; the local caving clubs are mentioned on page 95 of this guide-book.

## 8

### *The Work of the Planning Authorities*

by ROGER STEVENS

#### ADMINISTRATION

THE special landscape qualities which have earned each National Park in Wales and England its status do not usually respect the boundaries of local government administration. Thus the Brecon Beacons National Park, covering some 519 square miles, now extends into three counties and will probably cover parts of four after 1974. At present Breconshire, Carmarthenshire and Monmouthshire County Councils each have their own park planning committees, linked by a joint advisory committee which meets quarterly to consider matters of major importance and general policy.

Whatever changes in Park administration come about, national parks will be of continuing importance to the nation as a whole because of their scenic beauty and recreational value. As now, one-third of the members of park planning committees are likely, in Wales, to be appointed by the Secretary of State; two-thirds are and will be elective members of local government. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, and the Countryside Act, 1968, give planning authorities special responsibilities for the conservation and enhancement of landscape beauty in the Park, and the promotion of its enjoyment by the public. Much detailed work is carried out through the active use of general planning powers.

#### CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE

The park planning committees try to ensure that new buildings, quarries, power lines, camping and caravan sites and car parks are so situated and designed as to minimize their impact on the landscape. Trees may be planted to screen them and tree preservation orders are made to safeguard existing landscape qualities. Where mature and beautiful woodlands are threatened with clear felling, their purchase can be considered so that thinning and under-planting can be carried out to perpetuate the woodland. Afforestation is not subject to planning controls but a voluntary agreement drawn up in 1961 operates in national parks. Proposals for planting bare land in this Park are submitted to a consultative panel of representatives of the joint advisory committee,



the Countryside Commission, the Forestry Commission, the Timber Growers Organisation, the Country Landowners' Association, the Royal Forestry Society, the Nature Conservancy, the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales, and the National Trust, which manages large areas of open moorland in the Park. A map will be published showing where afforestation is likely to be acceptable and where it is not, to guide all parties.

The Brecon Beacons National Park is fortunate in being fairly free from major blemishes, though numerous eyesores, from wartime pill-boxes to never-ending crops of litter, have been removed with the help of volunteers. Full-time head wardens co-ordinate the work of voluntary wardens and parties of young people willing to help with such tasks.

Certain recreational activities on occasion come into conflict with one another; thus at Llangorse Lake the traditional activities of sailing and fishing have been disturbed by speed-boating and water ski-ing. The ecological interest of the lake is threatened by human disturbance and eutrophication of the water. Powers available under the Countryside Act are being used to resolve some of these conflicts.

#### PROMOTION OF ENJOYMENT AND UNDERSTANDING BY VISITORS

The visitor coming into the Park is likely to pass a boundary sign bearing a flaming beacon with a Welsh dragon on a shield below: this is the Park's emblem, which is also used on information material. To help people to enjoy and understand the Park's landscape and its management, information centres operate in Brecon, Abergavenny and Llandovery, where staff are able to supply detailed information about the Park. Maps are available, together with leaflets and booklets on recreational activities and places of historical and natural historical interest.

Similar information is also available at the Brecon Beacons Mountain Centre, set on the edge of common land about five miles south-west of Brecon. But that is much more than an information centre, being a place where visitors can relax and enjoy magnificent views of the Brecon Beacons across the Tarell valley, in peaceful surroundings. From the main lounge, veranda steps lead down to a terrace and picnic room, where simple refreshments are available. The field beyond provides space for informal games, and there is a large car park. Study group use of the centre is possible by prior arrangement with the supervisor, and short talks on the Park are often given by the staff. Opened in 1965, the building of the centre was made possible through the generosity of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. Additional grants were made by the National Parks Commission (now the Countryside Commission) and

the Welsh Office. Running costs are borne by the Park authorities with substantial government contribution obtained through the Countryside Commission.

Elsewhere in the Park scenic lay-bys and picnic sites have been provided at various points, both by the Park authorities and by the Forestry Commission. At Pandy, at the mouth of the Llanthony valley, Monmouthshire County Council has opened a camping and transit caravan site for tourists.

So far it has not been necessary to negotiate access agreements with landowners in the Park, *de facto* access to most of the high, open country being enjoyed by walkers. In 1971 the formal opening of the Offa's Dyke long-distance footpath, passing along the eastern boundary of the Park for some miles, ended many years of negotiations by the Countryside Commission, local authorities and voluntary bodies. Public access to the Bloreng, west of Abergavenny, is being safeguarded by the acquisition of some 2,000 acres by Monmouthshire County Council.

The Countryside Commission has also supported Breconshire and Monmouthshire County Councils in implementing a joint scheme with the British Waterways Board for the restoration of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, which runs from Brecon to just north of Pontypool. This is now being used increasingly for pleasure boating and coarse fishing, while the towpath provides attractive and easy alternatives to hill-top and ridge walking for visitors (Plate XXVI).



PLATE XXVI. The canal at Llanfoist, Monmouthshire

PLATE XXVII. Pony-trekkers heading up Nant y Bwch from Capel-y-ffin in the Black Mountains







PLATE XXVIII. At the crossroads, Pant Mawr Pot

## *Some Places of Interest*

**ABERGAVERNNY (Y FENNI).**<sup>1</sup> The National Park's eastern gateway and a good centre for the hills of varied form—Bloreng, Sugar Loaf, Skirrid Fawr and Skirrid Fach—which overlook it. Set above the confluence of the Gafenni and Usk, it lies  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from a good hillside section of the Monmouthshire-Brecon canal. Roman Abergavenny (Gobannium) may lie below the medieval castle whose motte and bailey, fourteenth-century gatehouse and ruined wall are in a park (with museum) on the south-west side of the town. The Benedictine priory became St. Mary's parish church, now notable for its fifteenth-century choir stalls, a grand recumbent figure of Jesse and superb thirteenth- and fifteenth-century effigies in wood and alabaster. The information centre of the Monmouthshire Park Planning Committee is in Monk Street.

**ABERYSGIR.** At the confluence of the Ysgir and Usk,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. west of Brecon. The Brecon Gaer, a Roman auxiliary fort of 5 acres, lies east of the Ysgir mouth (see page 37). Excavated by Sir Mortimer Wheeler in 1924-25, garrisoned until A.D. 180 by a Spanish cavalry regiment, it is maintained by the Department of the Environment. Across the Ysgir is the low mound of a castle built a thousand years later.

**BETHLEHEM.** On the Carmarthenshire Park boundary 2 m. south-west of Langadog. Like many Welsh hamlets, it takes its name from its nonconformist chapel. A much larger community lived upslope in the 30 acres enclosed within Garn Goch hill-fort 2,000 years ago (see page 64). A Roman villa has been excavated at Llys Brychan, 1 m. east of Bethlehem (see page 38).

**BLACK MOUNTAIN (Y MYNYDD DU).** In Carmarthenshire the Black Mountain culminates in Bannau Sir Gaer (2,460 feet, popularly known as the Carmarthen Fan); its north-eastern front is in

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<sup>1</sup>The Welsh forms of place-names in this gazetteer are those given in *Rhestr o Enwau Lleodedd: A Gazetteer of Welsh Place-Names* (see page 81). The Ordnance Survey is now adopting many of the spellings used in it. Where English place-names will be more familiar to many readers they are used, with the Welsh equivalent in parentheses.

Breconshire and reaches 2,632 feet. In clear weather the views from the high Black Mountain scarp range southward across the Bristol Channel to Exmoor and Lundy, westward to Pembroke-shire and Presely Mountains and northward to Plynlimon and Cader Idris. Bronze Age people buried their dead in cairns on the crest of the scarp. There are few more mysterious places in the Celtic lands than Llyn y Fan Fach (see page 70) and few more impressive scarps than the long eastern precipice of Fan Hir (Plate IV). On the gentler southern slope of the Black Mountain, limestones replace red sandstones and are still quarried along the Llangadog-Brynaman road (A 4069). Built by a Turnpike Trust set up in 1790, it rises to 1,618 feet and provides fine views where it tops the Black Mountain scarp. Trichrug, in the foreground of the northerly views, is a shapely ridge topped by Bronze Age cairns. George Borrow, who walked this road in thick mist in 1854, found it one of the wilder routes of Wild Wales.

**BLACK MOUNTAINS.** This mountain mass, bounded by the Wye, Llynfi and Usk valleys, lies in Breconshire, Monmouthshire and Herefordshire, but the Herefordshire ridges are not in the National Park. The bare, bold, north-west scarp falls to a belt of wooded foothills deeply cut by short streams. Behind the high scarp the roughly parallel Rhiangoll, Grwyne Fechan, Grwyne Fawr and Honddu rivers drain the boggy tops and then plunge into deep valleys. Glaciers and their melt-waters have helped to form the broader Honddu and Rhiangoll valleys. Narrow ridges separate all the valleys and their sides are steep, often craggy and very beautiful. Pen y Gadair Fawr (2,624 feet) and Waun Fach (2,660 feet) are the highest points and snow lies late there. Fine ridge walks and one road (Llanthony-Hay) give magnificent views. The valleys have sheltered monks, fugitives from religious persecution, eccentrics and farmers. Many farms in the upper valleys have been deserted in the past century. The Vale of Ewyas (Honddu valley) is the best known and the Grwyne Fechan the least frequented valley in the Black Mountains (see pages 65 and 70). The little north-western valleys around Llanigon and Llaneleu repay exploration (Plate II).

**BLORENGE.** Frowning down on Abergavenny from a height of 1,833 feet this viewpoint may easily be reached via B 4246. Geologically it is a coalfield outpost, and is pockmarked by limestone and grit-stone quarries, but its grand scale, its wooded lower slopes and the adjoining valley of Cwm Llanwenarth, attract many visitors.



**BRECON (ABERHONDDU).** Set at the confluence of the winding Usk and the obstreperous Honddu, Brecon (Plate XXV) has in turn administered a medieval lordship, a county and a National Park. The National Park information centre is at 6 Glamorgan Street, near the county's attractive museum. Soon after 1093 the Normans entrenched themselves on the ridge above the Honddu mouth. Their castle, the Norman village and the Benedictine priory lay west of the Honddu; the medieval walled borough spread across lower ground east of it. Brecon Castle, with a large motte and bailey, lies in the Bishop's garden (motte, topped by the polygonal Ely Tower) and around the Castle Hotel. Here a wall segment of the great hall and a pair of towers overlook the Honddu. Earlier generations of Brecon folk used the castle as a quarry and hastened destruction during the Civil War to avoid occupation by either side. In 1923 the priory church of St. John, strongly built in red sandstone, became Brecon Cathedral. It has a splendid Early English choir and fourteenth-century nave, guild and memorial chapels and an unusual font and cresset stone. The restored domestic buildings of the priory, now the Deanery and Chapter House, were given to the diocese in 1925 by W. S. de Winton, lay founder of the diocese. The Priory Grove walks, between the Cathedral and the Honddu, were laid out 150 years ago. In Llanfaes, across the Usk, the Dominican friary became a grammar school in 1541 and is now Christ College, a public school for boys. Brecon retains some substantial town houses of the local gentry and a fragment of the medieval wall on the Captains' Walk. This promenade, used by Napoleon's officers on parole, commands the Usk valley and the head of the Brecon-Newport canal. The canal draws its water from the Usk at Newton Weir and boats are available at the promenade there. Half a mile east of Brecon is Slwch Tump, capped by the partly levelled ramparts of a hill-fort. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. north-west of the town is Pen-y-crug (1,088 feet). This is a finer hill-fort, defended by five ramparts and ditches. It commands views of the Brecon Beacons and Fforest Fawr.

**BRECON BEACONS (BANNAU BRYCHEINIOG).** Towering over the Usk valley, the Beacons crest rises like the front of a great wave, petrified on the point of breaking. The long back slope runs down to the South Wales coalfield. Pen y Fan (2,907 feet) has a northern precipice 600 feet high, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. west of it Corn Du (2,863 feet) is another fine summit. Rivers and glaciers have carved up the Beacons into a number of flattish summits flanked

by red-cliffed corries. There are many scrambles for the adventurous via ridges which lead down to A 470 (Brecon-Merthyr) or to the Talybont-Merthyr road. The old bridleway from Brecon to Merthyr Tydfil, now the best-known walkers' route, goes south from Brecon, up Cwm Cynwyn and down the Taf Fechan valley and gives the best cross-section of the Beacons. Pen y Fan may be reached from the head of Cwm Cynwyn via the ridge-tops. In clear weather the Malverns, Plynlimon and Bristol Channel shores can be seen from these summits. Llyn Cwm-llwch, in the cwm below Corn Du, is approached from Brecon along the Cwm-llwch stream. Tumbling down the stepped northern front of the Beacons, this river provides what is probably the most beautiful walk to them, and there is always a chance of seeing the fairies of the little lake, or even King Arthur enthroned on his chair above it.

**BWLCH** lies in the pass between Buckland Hill and the long ridge which runs south from Mynydd Llangors. It straddles A 40 and the eastern slope of Buckland Hill. This village was a borough in the lordship of Blaenllynfi and a control point for the Usk and Llynfi valleys. Blaenllynfi Castle lies among trees north-west of the village. A brook trickles along its silted ditch, a fragment of curtain wall remains on the north-west side and a ruined tower lies at the south corner. This, in 1522, was Leland's 'very fair castle, now decaying'.

**CANTREF.** This church, 2 m. south-east of Brecon, lies by the Cynrig River and looks into the Beacons, which are in its large parish. The church was rebuilt in 1821. Its rector used to ride up Cwm Cynwyn and over the hills to Nant-ddu chapel to preach to his parishioners in the Taf Fawr valley.

**CARMARTHEN FAN.** See **BLACK MOUNTAIN.**

**CARREG CENNEN CASTLE** lies 3 m. south-east of Llandeilo on top of a 300-foot precipice above the Cennen River (Plate XXII). Best approached from the east and south, it seems to be part of the limestone crag from which its stones came. This breathtaking castle was initiated in the twelfth century by the Lord Rhys of Dinefwr, Llandeilo, and remained Welsh until 1277. Its gatehouse, angle towers and projecting chapel were built in the fourteenth century within a dry moat. Remains of its great hall and bakehouse lie in the courtyard. From this a cave containing a small well can be reached down a rock-cut passage 230 feet long. Pins are now thrown into this 'wishing well' by visitors. In 1462

the Yorkists employed five hundred men to try to break up the castle with 'bars, picks and crow-bars of iron'. The Department of the Environment has made good some of the damage which they caused.

**CASTELL DINAS.** Lying 3 m. south-east of Talgarth on an isolated knob of the Black Mountains, this castle commanded the high pass between the Llynfi and Rhiangoll valleys. Is it, at 1,476 feet, the highest castle in England and Wales? The site was fortified 1,500 years before the Normans invaded Brecknock and their castle is in the northern sector of a well-banked Iron Age fort (Plate XVII). The late twelfth-century castle had two wards; the larger, northern one, had the castle well and a gatehouse facing the Black Mountains. Great heaps of stone stand today in what the topographer Malkin called 'these present haunts of mountain sheep and ancient seats of unsociable and distrustful barons'. Perhaps they distrusted their poorly cemented fortress walls as much as the surrounding hillfolk.

**CRAIG CERRIG-GLEISIAD AND CRAIG Y CILIAU NATURE RESERVES.** See pages 11, 14, 21, 26 and 30.

**CRAIG-Y-NOS** on A 4067 in the Tawe valley, 4½ m. north-east of Ystradgynlais, was the 'home sweet home' of Madame Adelina Patti. Born in Madrid in 1843, she married the tenor Nicolini in Ystradgynlais church and, after his death in 1899, the Swedish Baron Cederström. Madame Patti bought Craig-y-nos in 1878 and died there in 1919. The large Italianate house was flanked by a huge aviary, a winter garden (now the Patti Pavilion in Swansea) and two lakes. The house is now a hospital. It contains Madame Patti's private theatre which seats 200 and was reopened in 1963.

**CRAY (CRAI).** A village in Cwm Crai on A 4067, 3 m. south-west of Sennybridge. Fan Gyhirych (2,381 feet) and the north flank of Fforest Fawr lie south of the village. Cray was one of the villages of the Great Forest (see page 43), a 40,000-acre common where farmers had pasture rights 'time out of mind' until the Enclosure Act of 1815-19. It had one of the seven forest mills and its church, Capel Ilud, was formerly a chapel-of-ease of Defynnog. The present church was built in 1882.

**CRICKHOWELL (CRUCYWEL).** A small, sheltered, market town set between the lower slopes of Crucywel (Table Mountain) and the Usk. Main roads along both sides of the Usk valley link it with Brecon and Abergavenny and, northwards, with Llangorse Lake



and Talgarth. Interesting minor roads lead westward to the limestone crags of Mynydd Llangynidr and Mynydd Llangatwg and north-eastward into the Grwyne valleys of the Black Mountains. The first local fortress was the Iron Age camp on Crucywel (see Fig. 7), and the first Norman castle may have been on the roadside mound a mile north-west of the town. The main medieval castle in Crickhowell controlled a large area, but now only its motte and bailey, parts of the curtain wall and a small round tower survive. Porth Mawr, on the west side of the town, is the great gate of a Tudor house of the Herbert family. The parish church of St. Edmund, founded in the fourteenth century, contains much nineteenth-century work. The pleasing thirteen-arched and strongly buttressed bridge over the Usk was rebuilt in 1810. Gwernvale,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. north-west of Crickhowell, was the home of Sir George Everest. The name of a mountain 2 miles north of Gwernvale is interesting. It is Pen Cerrig Calch (2,301 feet), a peak with a calcareous cap, the only outlier, north of the Usk, of the mountain limestone whose great crags dominate Crickhowell from the south.

**CWM CLYDACH.** The Clydach gorge runs from Brymawr to the Usk valley at Gilwern. As it links the former iron towns at the heads of the mining valleys with the Brecon and Newport canal, and with roads along the Usk valley, its steep slopes are notched by the lines of tramroads, railways and now by the new 'Heads of the Valleys' road. The Clydach River, tumbling 600 feet down the high rim of the coalfield, keeps some of its former beauty, though it no longer provides power for corn mills and ironworks (see page 44). Up to sixty years ago, at a 'runaway chapel' in this valley, many local elopers were married without licences. In 1962 the Cwm Clydach Nature Reserve was set up for the preservation and study of the lovely native beech woods of the valley (see page 30 and Plate XII).

**CWMYOY** lies 6 m. north of Abergavenny in the Vale of Ewyas and on a hillside, one of the south faces of Hatterall Hill, which is cleft by landslips. Some of the subsidence has occurred since the medieval church of St. Martin was built. The church was restored in 1885, but its tower and walls lean noticeably. A mile north-westward, across the valley, is Dial Garreg. In 1135 Richard de Clare was ambushed and killed in the neighbouring woods by a Welsh guerrilla band.

**DEFYNNOG.** This village, lying 7 m. west of Brecon, functioned as a cattle and sheep market until the turnpike road and the Neath-

Brecon railway fostered the growth of Sennybridge. The font at Defynnog bears the only Runic inscription in a Welsh church. This church was the centre for a large parish which extended up the Senni valley and over much of Fforest Fawr. It had chapels-of-ease on Mynydd Illtud and in the Crai and upper Tawe valleys. Near Defynnog church was one of the seven corn mills at which the tenants of the Great Forest of Brecknock had to grind their corn.

**DYFFRYN CRAWNON.** An impressive cleft running north-eastward to Llangynidr and the Usk valley. The Crawnnon River has cut downwards along a great fault line, a continuation of that forming the Vale of Neath. It can be followed in a south-west-north-east line throughout south Breconshire. Beyond the Usk it runs eastward through the Grwyne Fawr and Monnow valleys. South-west of the head of Dyffryn Crawnnon are Cwar yr Ystrad and Cwar yr Hendre, quarries which provide flux for Ebbw Vale steelworks. The local limestone has been quarried for many years and the track of the tramroad leading through Trefil and round the head of Dyffryn Crawnnon gives walkers fine views of the deep wooded valley cut into bare limestone hills.

**FFOREST FAWR.** The Great Forest of Brecknock was originally a lordship which served as a royal hunting-ground. It was retained by the Crown long after other lordships in the county had been disposed of. Although its valleys were more densely wooded in the Middle Ages than they now are, much of its 40,000 acres was open grazing land and, until its enclosure after 1819, it was a great common on to which the surrounding villagers could turn unlimited numbers of cattle and sheep (see page 42 and Fig. 9). Its valleys produced corn, and there were seven mills in the Great Forest. Fforest Fach, the moorland between the lower Crai valley and Cwm Treweren, was distinct from Fforest Fawr. The Great Forest includes fine walking country, much of it of interest to the geologist and naturalist. Craig Cerrig-gleisiad Nature Reserve is within its north-east boundary, the upper Neath and Tawe valleys and their tributaries contain caves and fine falls, and the hills around them are pocked with sink holes and workings for silica and rotten-stone. The Great Forest culminates in a line of bold summits. They run from the Carmarthen boundary, where the Brecknock Fan rises to 2,632 feet, and is linked by a great precipice to Fan Hir, eastward to Fan Fraith, Fan Nedd, Fan Llia and Fan Fawr (2,409 feet). Fan Frynych (2,047 feet), above the Tarell valley, is

the highest northern outlier of Fforest Fawr. A 4067 gives the motorist a quick cross-section of this moorland country and of two of the valleys which dissect it. The Defynnog-Ystradfellte-Pontneddfechan road has more to show to those who prefer to halt *en route*. (Plates VII-IX, XIII and XXVIII).

**GARN GOCH** lies in Carmarthenshire,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. south-west of Llangadog. Set on a 700-foot ridge, it commands the Towy valley and is the largest Iron Age fort in Wales. Its great and lesser forts extend over half a mile and must have included many stone huts in their day. The main fort—Y Gaer Fawr—is surrounded by the remains of a massive stone rampart and it has an annexe on the north side where cattle may have been herded in wartime. Y Gaer Fach has lower, double, ramparts. Both are best seen in spring when the plentiful bracken, which gives the hill its name, is neither high nor red.

**GILWERN.** A village  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. from both Crickhowell and Abergavenny, at the point where the Clydach gorge opens out on to the broad Usk valley. It is a good centre for boating and coarse fishing on the canal and for walks along its towpath.

**GLYNTAWE.** A largely hill parish in the upper Tawe valley which is notable for its caves, the old inns on the valley road and its silica, limestone and former rotten-stone workings. The railway through the parish, now closed to passengers, originated *c.* 1825 as the Brecon Forest Tramroad. This was built by John Christie to take coal from his pits at Ystradgynlais, and lime from Pen-wyllt quarries, to the Usk valley. Glyntawe Mill, one of seven medieval mills of Fforest Fawr, was probably on the stream which gushes out of Dan yr Ogof. Spectacular extensions of this cave were found in 1966.

**GOVILON.** A Monmouthshire village, 2 m. west of Abergavenny, at the point where Cwm Llanwenarth opens out into the Usk valley. The Bloreng and attractive stretches of the canal are also readily accessible and, across the Usk, Myndd Llanwenarth and the Sugar Loaf invite exploration. Govilon may be a corruption of *gefaillion*, forges. There were several south and west of it.

**GRWYNE FAWR.** This river flows through the heart of the Black Mountains, from Rhiw Cwnstabl (2,267 feet) on their north-west scarp, to the Usk confluence near Glangrwyne. Pen y Gadair Fawr and Waun Fach, the highest summits of the Black Mountains, lie between it and the Grwyne Fechan valley. The



Grwyne Fawr valley can be walked from the track which drops into it over Rhiw Cwnstabl or from the lanes leading up from Crickhowell or the eastern fringe of the Black Mountains. The middle section of the valley has conifer plantations with two picnic sites; oakwoods clothe the slopes of the lower valley. The old humped bridge, Pont-yr-esgob, at the point where the river turns westward along a fault line, takes its name from Bishop Baldwin. He crossed it in 1188, with Gerald the Welshman, when recruiting for the Crusades. The Grwyne valleys have lost half their people in the past 150 years. Farms in their upper reaches are deserted, the little paper mills in the lower valley are inactive and the forge at Glangrwyne was abandoned a century ago because of competition from ironworks in the coalfield to which many of the hillfolk migrated.

GRWYNE FECHAN. One of the least frequented and most beautiful valleys of the Black Mountains. In the early nineteenth century 'nightingales resorted to its woods in great numbers' according to Theophilus Jones. Tracks lead into it over Rhiw Trumau, from A 479, or it can be reached from Crickhowell. There is good ridge walking on the high hills which enfold it. The Hermitage in this valley was not a religious foundation and it is now a ruin.

GWYNFE. A Carmarthenshire hamlet 6 m. east of Llandeilo. Set at 690 feet on the foothills of the Black Mountain, it has fine views into its north scarp. Maenor Gwynfe was a Welsh hill manor. It had one of the earliest Congregational chapels and the late seventeenth-century preachers of Cwmllynfell came over the Black Mountain to minister to its congregation. The area remains Welsh in speech and culture. Its late nineteenth-century schoolmaster, Beriah Gwynfe Evans, is honoured in Wales as a leader of the movement to restore Welsh to use in schools. Sir John Williams, court physician and founder of the National Library of Wales, was born at Beili Farm, Gwynfe, in 1840.

HAY-ON-WYE (Y GELLI). At the north-east corner of the Park, where the Dulas valley gives access to the ridge tracks and valleys of the Black Mountains. The Norman invasion of Brycheiniog began here and the eleventh-century castle and surrounding town have been burnt and sacked in border wars. The ruined keep and gate survive on the impressive castle site, as does their late Tudor replacement, a house badly damaged by fire. Hay once made flannel; it had five fairs and is still a centre for local farmers. Its remarkable clock tower was erected in 1881. Hay Bluff (Pen y

Beacon, 2,219 feet), and other good viewpoints, can be reached via the Hay-Llanthony road.

**HEOL SENNI.** A farmers' hamlet in the fine Senni valley. A hill road leads southward from it over Fforest Fawr to Ystradfellte. Parts of this road, and the hill track east of the Senni valley, lead to the Roman fort at Aberysgir and are sections of Sarn Helen (Elen in Welsh—Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine).

**LLANBEDR YSTRAD YW.** This church of St. Peter is in the lovely vale of the Grwyne Fechan. It is an eleventh-century foundation and stands upslope from St. Peter's Well. The church has a fourteenth-century tower but most of it, like the village, was rebuilt in the past century.

**LLANDEUSANT.** A Carmarthenshire hamlet in the hills below the Black Mountain scarp. Like Gwynfe and Myddfai this was a Welsh manor peopled mainly by free tenants; a manorial court leet still meets there. The high hills of the parish are capped by Bronze Age burial mounds. The lower hills and deep wooded valleys are well described in Richard Vaughan's novel *Moulded in Earth*. A Roman camp was recently identified on the north-west slope of Arosfa Garreg-lwyd, 2 m. north-east of Llandeusant.

**LLANDEILO FAWR.** A market town in the Towy valley, centred upon St. Teilo's church. Lying  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond the western boundary of the Park, the town is a good centre for the Black Mountains, the Cennen valley and its castle, and for the hills which flank the Towy water meadows. Splendidly poised above these is the old castle of Dinefwr, seat of Welsh princes, of the Lord Rhys, of the Tudor leader Sir Rhys ap Thomas and of his descendants.

**LLANDOVERY (LLANYMDDYFRI).** 'About the pleasantest little town in which I have halted in the course of my wanderings' (Borrow). This old-established borough lies just beyond the north-west corner of the Park and is a centre for it and for the equally fine Towy gorges which lie north of Llandovery. As the control point of several valleys, Llandovery has a thirteenth-century shell keep on a rocky knoll above the River Bran. The Roman fort lay north of the town. Vicar Pritchard, seventeenth-century author of the collection known as *The Welshmen's Candle*, and the eighteenth-century hymnologist William Williams, are famous Llandovery men. William Williams was born at Cyncoed, near Llandovery, but is known throughout Wales as Pantycelyn from the name of

his later home, 3 miles away. 'Guide me, Oh Thou great Jehovah,' is one of his hymns. Hymns are often associated with rugby football in Wales and Llandovery's public school both sings and plays well.

**LLANDYFÂN.** A hamlet on the Carmarthenshire Park boundary,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. north-east of Llandybie, in the well-quarried limestone country of the Loughor and its tributaries. Forge Llandyfân, an eighteenth-century ironworks in the Loughor valley, used lime, and local elm and oak wood for charcoal. Its bar iron was used to make arms in the Napoleonic Wars but production ceased in the mid-nineteenth century.

**LLANELEU,** 2 m. east of Talgarth at the moorland edge below the Black Mountains. The remote and simple church retains its rood screen. The formerly well-wooded valleys of the Black Mountains produced the oak timber used here, at Patrishow and at Llanfilo, 4 miles westward, beyond the Park boundary. Llaneleu has also kept its medieval oak door and its stocks. Roses dominate its rood screen, which is older and more homely than the exquisite one at Patrishow (see page 72).

**LLANELLY.** This hamlet,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. south-east of Crickhowell, stands on the eastern slopes of Mynydd Llangatwg. There are fine views from this moorland edge. Llanelly forge, in the nearby Clydach valley, was set up c. 1600 and used locally produced charcoal and iron ore. The eighteenth-century forges at Llanelly, owned by the Hanburys of Pontypool, and the nearby Clydach forges, are described on page 44.

**LLANFIHANGEL CRUCORNEY,** 4 m. north-east of Abergavenny, at the entrance to the Vale of Ewyas. The village stands above the Honddu River, here diverted north-eastward after the Ice Age by a great moraine of glacial debris. Down its former wide valley the little Gafenni River now flows southward. St. Michael's church is largely restored, but Llanfihangel Court is a fine gabled house of the late sixteenth century. The Skirrid Mountain Inn is a restored medieval house built in local stone.

**LLANFIHANGEL CWM-DU.** The black cwm in which this St. Michael's church is placed is thought to take its name from the weathered crags which surround it. Far from gloomy, it is one of the most sheltered valleys in Breconshire. A 479 and A 40, which run along the valley sides, are old-established routes. The Romans brought their road into it from Bwlch and set up a fort in the



valley bottom. The native people had already entrenched themselves in the Gaer above Cwm-du village. Here the church has a fourteenth-century tower but was otherwise rebuilt after 1830. Its early nineteenth-century incumbent, the Rev. Thomas Pryse (Carnhuanawc) wrote a history of Wales which is still valued.

**LLANFRYNACH**,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. south-east of Brecon, takes its name from St. Brynach, an Irish missionary of the late fifth century. The Romans preceded St. Brynach to Llanfrynach and the bath-house of one of their villas was found west of the village in 1783. Its mosaics were recorded but cannot now be seen. The church has a fine old tower but was mostly rebuilt in 1855. It is flanked by a large churchyard and by some interesting houses. The parish extends over the scarp of the Beacons into the Taf Fechan valley. East of Llanfrynach the canal crosses the Usk by an attractive stone aqueduct.

**LLANGASTY TAL-Y-LLYN**. A parish around the head of Llangorse Lake with the rebuilt church by its south shore. The manor of Tal-y-llyn had a common on Allt yr Esgair. This sharp ridge, between the lake and the Usk valley, is a splendid viewpoint. It is crowned by a large and probably uncompleted Iron Age hill-fort.

**LLANGATTOCK (LLANGATWG)** lies across the Usk bridge from Crickhowell and extends up the slopes of Mynydd Llangatwg. Here groups of cottages on the edge of the common formerly housed weavers and quarrymen. The limestone quarries were connected by tramroad with Nantyglo ironworks. This tramway provides an attractive path round the mountain and along the quarry faces. The cliffs include Craig y Ciliau Nature Reserve. Ciliau means retreats or refuge, in this case not only for rare plants but, possibly, in times of religious persecution also. One of its caves is Eglwys Faen, i.e. the stone church. Another is the cavers' well-known Agen Allwedd (see page 51). St. Catwg's church in the village is a sixteenth-century foundation. The restored church contains both stocks and whipping-post.

**LLANGENNI**. In the lower Grwyne Fawr valley,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. east of Crickhowell. The church and nearby well are dedicated to St. Ceneu or Keyna, one of the many daughters of St. Brychan. One of the tracks up the Sugar Loaf leads through the village. Last century there were small flour, paper and flannel mills in the valley, one paper mill being on the site of the forge at Glangrwyne.

**LLANGORSE LAKE (LLYN SYFADDAN).** The lake at Llangorse (Llan-gors: the church in the fen) is set among reed beds and lies 6 m. east of Brecon. The lake is drained by the River Llynfi and is cradled between the slopes of Allt yr Esgair and Mynydd Llan-gors. The rich fauna and flora of the lake are described in Chapters 3 and 4. Its plentiful coarse fish and eels have attracted fishing parties for centuries. The supposed submerged town of Mara never existed, but near the lake's outlet there is a crannog, a lake dwelling set on wooden piles. Llangorse church (St. Paulinus *juxta mara* in old charters) has a fifteenth-century roof. This beautifully set lake is best seen from the surrounding hills. Most visitors to the lake congregate on the common between the village and its north shore.

**LLANGYNYDR** lies in the most dramatic section of the Usk valley, that between Crickhowell and Talybont. Llnagynidr Bridge (Plate XXIV) is a fine, heavily buttressed structure and from its southern end paths lead along beautiful riversides. The canal may also be followed through the village and along the river gorge below Buckland Hill. Contrasting country lies south of the village at Blaenonnau, where the road climbs the limestone scarp. Mynydd Llangynidr, like Mynydd Llangatwg, has dry limestone surfaces pitted with swallow holes along its higher, northern, portions. Its gentler south slopes are mainly outside the Park.

**LLANHAMLACH.** A hamlet on A 40, 3 m. south-east of Brecon. St. Peter's church was rebuilt in 1804. St. Illtud's house (Tŷ Illtud) is a cairn  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. east of the church. As a holy well and a yew tree lie near it there may have been a church there whose name may have been transferred to a tomb which was already 2,000 years old when Illtud preached in Breconshire.

**LLANIGON.** On the Park boundary 2 m. south-west of Hay-on-Wye. Tracks lead past its old hillside church up to and over the Black Mountains to Capel-y-ffin, its chapel-of-ease at the south-east end of the parish. Between Llanigon and Llanelu Neolithic folk made clearings in the wooded foothills and buried their dead there in long cairns. The quiet little valleys between the high scarp and the Wye valley have many attractions for walkers.

**LLANSANTFFRAED (LLANSANFFRAID).** St. Bride's church overlooks the Usk and Talybont. The church by A 40 was built in 1885 but monuments from earlier centuries survive. The best known is the tomb of Henry Vaughan, the Silurist, poet and physician

(1622-95). As the Swan of Usk he wrote of Isca, 'When I am layd to rest hard by thy streams'. There is an annual memorial service in the church by the Usk. Henry Vaughan's family held Newton and Scethrog, both of which lie upstream. The Tower at Scethrog is a small strongly walled keep adapted as a dwelling-house.

LLANSPYDDID (LLANSBYDDYD). On A 40, 2 m. west of Brecon, at a point where the Usk leaves a fine gorge. The fourteenth-century church, restored in 1880, is dedicated to St. Catwg and is flanked by fine yews.

LLANTHONY (LLANDDEWI NANT HODNI). Llanthony Priory (Plate XX) lies 6 m. from Llanfihangel Crucorney up the Vale of Ewyas, the loveliest and best-known valley of the Black Mountains. It was founded in 1107 by William de Lacy, brother of the Lord of Ewyas, as an Augustinian priory. The west front and parts of the nave and choir of the late twelfth-century church are set in meadowland below the craggy mountains which produced their stones. The south tower and prior's house are an hotel and the farm south-west of the ruins incorporates the priory's gate-house. The little parish church of St. David was the priory's hospitium and the surrounding meadows overlies other relics and fishponds. In the fifteenth century the Augustinians retreated to a second Llanthony at Gloucester. Walter Savage Landor (1775-1864) bought Llanthony in 1802 but found it 'an ungenial clime'. His contribution to the present-day landscape was groves of Spanish chestnuts. Up the valley, and over the Breconshire border, are the remains of another grandiose scheme, the monastery founded at Capel-y-ffin in 1870 by 'Father Ignatius'. Its church is in ruins but the monastic house bears traces of Eric Gill's four-year tenure in the 1920s.

LLYN Y FAN FACH is a very beautiful reservoir. Its dam is small and it lies, differing little from a natural lake, below great red crags draped with vivid green grass and moss. It is almost encircled by cliffs which plunge 500 feet down from the crest of the Carmarthenshire Black Mountain (Plate III). This is the lake whose surface carried a fairy bride to her farmer on the shore. To it she returned after he had struck her thrice with iron. She knew the local herbs and their descendants were known for centuries as the Physicians of Myddfai (Meddygon Myddfai). Perhaps this best-known Welsh folk tale echoes the clash of cultures between the Bronze Age people of the mountains and boisterous Iron Age warriors from forts like Garn Goch.



Perhaps men from the Towy valley still pay court to their brides at Llyn y Fan Fach. The track up to it past Llanddeusant is a very rewarding route.

**LLYWEL.** A church on the Park boundary, on A 40, 11 m. west of Brecon. The high fifteenth-century tower of Llywel church overlooks the parting of the waters of the Usk and Towy streams and looks toward the Black Mountain into which the parish extends. The church roof shelters a colony of Natterer's bats, the churchyard retains its stocks and the church contains the Taricora Stone and a cast of the Llywel Stone, an early Christian monument with sixth- and seventh-century inscriptions. It has often been described: the most comprehensive account is by the Rev. J. Jones-Davies, vicar of Llywel. Both stones have Ogam (Irish) inscriptions on their margins.

**MYDDFAI.** A village 3 m. south of Llandovery. Placed where the River Bran leaves the higher hills, it was the centre of a medieval Welsh manor and its court leet still functions. The Physicians of Myddfai (see page 70) and their remedies are said to date back at least to the thirteenth century; the last doctor who claimed to be one of them died only half a century ago. In the Middle Ages the free tenants of Maenor Myddfai had the unusual task of providing their lord of the manor with a physician whenever he was travelling in Wales. Myddfai church has a thirteenth-century chancel. Morgan Owen, Bishop Laud's chaplain, was born at Myddfai and was hunted back there by the Puritans. He was buried in Myddfai church in 1644.

**MYNYDD BACH TRECASTELL** carries the Roman predecessor of A 40 down to Llandovery. The ridgeway may well be prehistoric and is bordered by Bronze Age stone circles. At 1,350 feet, by the highest points of the road, are Y Pigwn marching camps, built during the Roman Conquest of A.D. 70. This was a main road until the early nineteenth century, when it was replaced by the valley turnpike which became A 40. Oxen used to be harnessed to carriages for the pull up the Llandovery side of Mynydd Bach Tre Castell. This ridgeway is a splendid walking and bridle track and has wide views.

**MYNYDD ILLTUD** is a common on the foothills between Sennybridge and Brecon. This grazing land has a Bronze Age cairn (Bedd Illtud), a Roman road and a ruined church which is a more likely halting place for St. Illtud, to whom it is dedicated. Beyond the western edge of the common the stump of the thirteenth-century tower of Blaencamlais Castle rises from a deeply ditched mound.

Mynydd Illtud looks into the Beacons and towards both Black Mountains. Thanks to a magnificent gift from the Carnegie Trustees, a Mountain Centre has been built on the boundary of the common, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. east of St. Illtud's church (see page 55).

**OLDCASTLE.** Near the eastern Park boundary, where the steep eastern slope of Hatterall Hill runs more gently down to the Olchon Brook. There are old earthworks at Court Farm and Oldcastle may once have been a larger village. The church was rebuilt in 1864. Walking tracks lead along Hatterall Hill above the hamlet.

**PANDY.** On A 465 on the eastern border of the Park. Pandy means fulling mill, here formerly driven by the Honddu. From Pandy lanes lead past the seventeenth-century manor house and dovecote at Trewyn into the Black Mountains.

**PATRISHOW,**  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. north of Abergavenny on the hillside above the Grwyne Fawr valley. This medieval church, because of its isolation, has preserved many treasures. Its thirteenth-century western end has a pre-Reformation altar table: there are two more in the church. It has an eleventh-century font, murals which include a figure of Death, and an oak cradle roof, but is best known for its Tudor rood screen on which the Welsh dragon stands among interlacing vines (Plate XXI). There are beautiful views from the church.

**PENCELLI,** 4 m. south-east of Brecon, was the head of a medieval lordship. The canal was cut round the castle mound and the substantial towers, chapel and gatehouse, recorded in Buck's prints, have disappeared. The house on the castle site was built by the Herbert family.

**PENDERYN.** A quarrymen's and farmers' village  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. north of Hirwaun. Penderyn is in limestone country and paths lead from it into the lovely gorges of the Hepste and Mellte and over the grit-capped hills between the Hepste and Taf Fawr valleys.

**PEN-PONT** lies 5 m. west of Brecon in a fine section of the Usk valley which was landscaped by the Williams of Pen-pont in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Their larch plantations, dating from c. 1780, were noteworthy. They also commissioned, in 1865, a restoration by Gilbert Scott of Pen-pont church. This has a circular tower.

**PONTARLLECHAU.** A hamlet  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. south-east of Llangadog, in the fine Sawdde valley where tilestones were quarried (see page 5). It is a starting point for the mountain road which leads to Trecastle, past the Usk reservoir which was completed in 1955.

**PONTNEDDFECHAN.** A village on the Park boundary where the Neath is bridged near its confluence with the Mellte. It is a centre for exploring half a dozen fascinating valleys which have fine falls and striking rock outcrops, sometimes contorted by major earth movement (see page 10). Some of the valley tracks were tram-roads to silica workings; on that up the Neath one walks on the stone chairs of the tramway. Pontneddfechan is at the southern end of the mountain road to Sennybridge.

**PONTSTICILL.** A village on the western slope of the Taf Fechan valley, near to the lowest reservoir whose dam was completed in 1927. The village has limestone hills to southward and red sandstone moorlands on its north side. Passengers formerly had panoramic views of the Beacons from the nearby railway.

**SENNYBRIDGE (PONTSENNI).** A sheep and cattle market  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. west of Brecon. It has developed since the mail coach road to Llandovery was built in 1819, since the Neath-Brecon railway was completed in 1872 and, recently, as an army camp to serve the ranges on Mynydd Epynt. Castell Du, across the Senni, was a fourteenth-century keep where the Constable of Fforest Fawr imprisoned offenders against the hunting laws. Scottish farmers, owners of large sheepwalks after the enclosure of the Great Forest (1815-19), started the Sennybridge sheep sales.

**SKIRRID FAWR (YSGYRD FAWR).** A dramatic peak known locally as the Holy Mountain, which rises sharply to 1,596 feet, 3 m. north-east of Abergavenny. Its west side has a 300-foot cleft caused by a landslip. Tradition dates this great rent to the Crucifixion and red earth from its scree used to be scattered over local fields. The summit is encircled by the rampart of an Iron Age fort and is the site of St. Michael's chapel. Because it rises in isolation from rolling lowlands there are grand views from it into the Park and to the Cotswolds and Malvern Hills. In 1801 the topographer William Coxe reached its summit 'with animation and lassitude, horror and delight'. In 1939 Major J. A. Herbert, M.P. gave its upper 200 acres to the National Trust.

**SUGAR LOAF.** This serene pointed peak rises to 1,955 feet,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. north-west of Abergavenny. It was given to the National Trust, with its flanking ridges, by Viscountess Rhondda in 1936. Many walking routes lead up to it along the ridgeways and, in season, it rewards walkers with fine bilberries.

**TAF FAWR.** The upper Taf Fawr flows from the west side of the Brecon Beacons to the Park boundary at Cefncoedycymer. Cymer is a confluence, here with the Taf Fechan. Storey Arms, at the head



of the valley, is in the pass whence cattle droves went north via the east side of the Tarell valley. This drove road is recommended to the many week-end motorists who park at Storey Arms. Its green surface gives a gentle introduction to walking. Where the Taf Fawr flows through red sandstones three reservoirs were built in 1892-1927 to supply Cardiff with water. The newly planted eastern hillsides have some attractive larch groupings. Between the lowest reservoir and Cefncoed, limestone crags overhang the east side of the valley: the western slopes are gentler (Plate XIV).

**TAF FECHAN.** This valley shares many features with the parallel Taf Fawr, but its head, encircled by the highest summits of the Beacons, is much more impressive. It can be explored from the trackway over Craig Cwm Cynwyn or from the Talybont-Merthyr road. Four reservoirs in this valley, dating from 1895-1927, supply the thirsty coalfield. Formerly the shepherds of this valley worshipped at Capel Taf Fechan, near the dam between the lower reservoirs. Their minister came over the hills from the parish church at Llanddeti.

**TALGARTH,** 8 m. north-east of Brecon, set in the best farmland in the Park, and formerly strategically important because it commanded the routes to Brecon and Crickhowell. At the east end of its bridge is a square fourteenth-century tower, now incorporated into a house, but originally akin to a peel tower. There are several other castles and castle mounds nearby in the Llynfi valley. The cruciform church has some thirteenth-fifteenth-century work and was restored in 1873. Talgarth used to have, annually, eight cattle fairs which were well attended by drovers. The great scarp of the Black Mountains dominates the little town and can be explored from it.

**TALYBONT-ON-USK.** A village  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. south-east of Brecon at a meeting of rivers and on the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal. It is not one of the historic villages of Breconshire but has developed as a route centre. As such it is a starting-point for walks along the canal towpath (especially good downstream) and for ridge walks leading southwards. The head of the valley above Talybont reservoir is very attractive and the reservoir is a refuge for wildfowl.

**TRECASTLE (TRECASTELL),** 10 m. west of Brecon, on A 40, controlled the valley way westward. In the early twelfth century the Lord of Brecon built an outpost there. This castle is the largest motte and bailey in the Park and its high mound, overhanging the road

and topped by beeches, is a notable landmark. The village street has some substantial houses, former inns of mail coach days. A roadside monument 6 miles north-west of Trecastle describes an accident involving a mail coach in 1835.

**TREFECA.** A mile south-west of Talgarth on B 4560. Trefeca is remembered in Wales for the community established there in 1752 by the itinerant preacher Howell Harris (1714-73), one of the Welsh founding Methodists. His community aimed at self-sufficiency and had a woollen industry and a planned farming economy. On its farmland many innovations were introduced, it had large orchards and flax and hemp were grown. The Countess of Huntingdon supported the community but it languished after the death of Howell Harris. The Methodist connection has been retained and a theological college was set up there in 1842.

**TRETOWER (TRETŴR),**  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. north-west of Crickhowell, has a unique fortified manor house and an interesting castle. Bernard Newmarch, Lord of Brecon, gave Ystrad Yw lordship to his knight Picard and Picard's Tower was built to control three passes. This Norman castle was a rectangular keep on a stone-faced motte. In the thirteenth century a round keep was built within the stump of the older tower and turrets were built around the bailey. In 1403 Owain Glyndwr assaulted a castle which was already decaying, the owners having moved to Tretower Court. This is a fine fourteenth- and fifteenth-century house added to up to 1630. It is walled and has elaborate garderobes and a gatehouse worthy of a medieval castle (Plates XIX and XXIII). After 1777 it became a farmhouse but, thanks to the efforts of Sir John Lloyd and the Brecknock Society, it was preserved and is now maintained by the Department of the Environment.

**VAYNOR (Y FAENOR),**  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. north of Merthyr Tydfil, originated as a farmers' hamlet on the north slope of the Taf Fechan valley. The river forms the Park boundary and has cut a fine gorge between Vaynor and Pontsarn. A castle mound stands on a ledge west of Vaynor church and both face the larger Morlais Castle across the valley. The tower of the thirteenth-century church survives; the new church was built by Robert Crawshay of Cyfarthfa, the Merthyr Tydfil ironmaster, who was buried there in 1879.

**YSTRADFELLTE.** A hill hamlet in the Mellte valley, on the south side of Fforest Fawr. The Mellte is the best known of the fascinating headstreams of the River Neath and its finest sequence of caves

and falls starts at Porth yr Ogof,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. below the village (see page 8). Beautiful limestone woodlands clothe the gorges of this and neighbouring rivers. There are paths down the Mellte and into the Hepste valley. There walkers can cross the Hepste River on the ledge behind the lovely water curtain called Sgwd yr Eira—fall of snow—or by its older name, Cilhepste Fall (see cover). Cattle, sheep and ponies used to be driven along the ledge by local farmers. At the Llia-Tringarth confluence,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. north-east of the village, is the wreck of a small castle built of red river boulders, hence its name Castell Coch. The church was restored in 1870 and 1882; its yews are claimed to be 800 years old.



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## APPENDIX I

### *Welsh Place-Names in the Park*

THE majority of place-names found on the 1-inch maps of Wales are descriptive of physical features, location and vegetation. Names on the 1-inch sheets which cover the Brecon Beacons National Park (140, 141, 142, 153, 154 and 155) are no exception. Biblical names occur occasionally. Bethlehem: SN/6825 and Libanus (Lebanon): SN/9925 are hamlets clustered round chapels.<sup>1</sup> Castle towns like Brecon (Welsh: Aberhonddu) have anglicised names, but Welsh names predominate for farms, hills and valleys. They give clues to geology and land-forms, to types of former and present-day vegetation, and add interest to walking and map interpretation. For example, the only remnant, north of the Usk, of the limestone which covers the southern fringe of the Park is on Pen Cerrig Calch (SO/2122), viz. 'limestone top'. A glossary of components found in place-names in the Park is given below. River and proper names which may be included in the examples are not translated in the glossary.

#### MUTATION

Examples of mutated forms have been included. In Welsh, mutation of initial consonants often occurs when elements are compounded, e.g. Pont (bridge) + ar (on) + Taf (river name) becomes Pont-ar-daf. Or again, the initial consonant of a feminine singular noun is softened after the definite article, e.g. Maenor becomes Y Faenor. Very often the definite article has been lost but the mutated form of the noun survives, e.g. Caer becomes Y Gaer and more often Gaer; similarly (Y) Garn, (Y) Garreg. In order to find a component in the glossary it is necessary, if its initial consonant has suffered mutation, to know the radical form of that consonant, e.g.

*p* mutates to *b*, thus for *berllan* see *perllan*

*t* mutates to *d*, thus for *darren* see *tarren*

*d* mutates to *dd*, thus for *ddu* see *du*

*c* mutates to *g*, for *graig* see *craig*

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<sup>1</sup>National grid references are prefaced by SN or SO, figures which denote lines bounding 100 km. squares in the Park. They will be found on the margins of recent editions of large and small scale Ordnance Survey maps (SN was formerly 22 and SO was 32). The last four figures of the grid references in this appendix denote the south-west corner of the square in which the beginning of the name occurs.



*b* mutates to *f*, thus for *fach* see *bach* and for *fan* see *ban*  
*m* mutates to *f*, thus for *fawr* see *mawr* and for *felin* see *melin*  
*ll* mutates to *l*, thus for *lwyd* see *llwyd*.

The above are the commonest mutations which occur in place-names and cover virtually all the forms which occur in the Park. There are other complications such as the adjective sometimes losing its initial consonant after a feminine noun, e.g. *carreg las*. The initial *g* in the adjective has been lost and to find the meaning of *las* see *glas*. Or again, after the definite article, the initial consonant may be dropped. Thus for *y waun* see *gwaun* and for *y wern* see *gwern*.

### PRONUNCIATION

Welsh is more phonetic than English and when the elements are mastered pronunciation is not difficult. It has no stumbling-blocks like Woolfardisworthy or Prinknash. But some English consonantal and most vowel sounds are of little use in speaking Welsh and the correct ones, as in any other language, have to be learnt. The following are general principles:

#### Consonants

*b, d, h, l, m, n, p, t*: same sound as in English  
*c* is always hard, e.g. *caer* = Eng. *k-aye-r*  
*ch* as in *loch* or German *nach*  
*dd* as in *this*, e.g. *ddu* = Eng. *thee*  
*f* is the English *v*, e.g. *fan* = Eng. *van*  
*ff* has the English *f* sound, e.g. *ffynnon* = Eng. *fun-on*  
*g* is always hard and *r* is always trilled  
*s* is hard: *sŷn* as in its English equivalent *sound* and not *zoon*  
*ll*: follow the advice given to a bishop, viz. 'put your Lordship's tongue behind your episcopal top teeth and hiss like a gander'.

*Vowels*. The Welsh vowels are *a, e, i, o, u, w*, and *y* and each has long and short values. Vowels are short when followed by two or more consonants or by *c, ng, m, p*, or *t* and long when followed by *b, ch, d, f, ff, g, s* or *th*.

#### Long

*a*: *ah* as in *palm*  
*e*: as in *très* or *gate* in North England  
*i*: as in *eel*; *crib* (crest) = *kreeb*  
*o*: as in *gore*; *dôl* (meadow) = *dole*

#### Short

*a*: pure and flat as in *à la*  
*e*: as in *get*  
*i*: as in *pin*  
*o*: as in *not*; *morfa* (marsh) = *morrvah*

*u*: sounds like French *u* in North Wales and English *ee* in South Wales  
*w*: *oo* as *pool*; *drws* (door) = *drooss*; *w*: *oo* as in good; *cwm* = *coomb*  
*y*, long and short, has two sounds, the 'clear' sound similar to the Welsh *i* and the 'obscure' sound which when long is like *u* in *further* and when short is as *u* in *gun*, e.g. *mynydd* (first *y* obscure and second clear) = *mun-eeth*.

## STRESS AND SPELLING

In Welsh the accent is usually on the penultimate syllable. Words for natural features, e.g. *afon*, *llyn*, are written separately from the specific name when they refer to natural features. When used for man-made features such as settlements and farms, they are written as one word, but a hyphen may be used to indicate the stressed syllable. The examples given below follow these rules and are the correct Welsh forms. They may differ from those given on 1-inch maps, but these are gradually being corrected by the Ordnance Survey in consultation with Celtic scholars.

## GLOSSARY

			Grid reference
<i>aber</i>	confluence, river mouth	Aber Camlais	SN/9628
<i>afon</i>	river	Afon Wysg	SN/8228
<i>allt</i>	hill, slope, wood	Yr Allt	SN/9129
<i>ar</i>	on, upon, over, by	Pont-ar-daf	SN/9819
<i>arian</i>	silver, money	Carn yr Arian	SN/9312
<i>arosfa</i>	sheepwalk	Arosfa Garreg-lwyd	SN/8026
<i>bach</i>	little	Quarter Bach	SN/7316
<i>bâl</i>	summit	Bâl Mawr	SO/2627
<i>ban</i> , pl. <i>bannau</i>	peak, crest, beacon	Fan Fawr	SN/9618
<i>banc</i>	bank, hill, slope	Banc Wernwgan	SN/6819
<i>bedd</i> , pl. <i>beddau</i>	grave	Bedd Illtud	SN/9726
<i>bedwen</i> , pl. <i>bedw</i>	birch	Fedw-fach	SO/0623
<i>beili</i>	bailey, yard	Beili-glas	SN/7730
<i>betws</i>	chapel-of-ease	Betws	SO/2919
<i>blaen</i> , pl. <i>blaenau</i>	head, end, source	Blaen Senni	SN/9019
<i>brith</i>	speckled	Tyle Brith	SN/9919
<i>bro</i>	region, vale	Fro	SO/2319
<i>bron</i>	hillside (lit. breast)	Fron-uchaf	SN/8032
<i>bryn</i>	hill	Bryn	SO/0722
<i>buarth</i>	yard, enclosure	Buarth y Caerau	SO/0713
<i>bugail</i> , pl. <i>bugeiliaid</i>	shepherd	Bryn Bugeiliaid	SN/8513
<i>bwch</i>	buck	Cwm-bwch	SO/2619
<i>bwch</i>	pass	Bwch y Giedd	SN/8221
<i>bychan</i> , fem. <i>fechan</i>	little, lesser	Taf Fechan	SO/0317
<i>cadair</i>	seat	Cadair Fawr	SN/9712
<i>cadno</i>	fox	Carreg Cadno	SN/8715
<i>cae</i> , pl. <i>caeau</i>	field	Pen-y-cae	SN/8413

			Grid reference
<i>caer</i> , pl. <i>caerau</i>	fort, stronghold	Y Gaer	SO/0029
<i>calch</i>	limestone	Pen Rhiw-galch	SO/1017
<i>cam</i>	crooked	Banc Carreg-foel-gam	SN/7023
<i>caniedydd</i>	songster	Carn Caniedydd	SN/9815
<i>canol</i>	middle	Cwm Wysg-ganol	SN/9329
<i>capel</i>	chapel	Capel Gwynfe	SN/7222
<i>carn</i> , pl. <i>carnau</i>	cairn, rock, mountain	Garn Goch	SN/6824
<i>carreg</i> , pl. <i>cerrig</i>	stone, rock	Garreg Las	SN/7720
<i>castell</i>	castle	Castell Madoc	SN/9222
<i>cawnen</i> , pl. <i>cawn</i>	reed	Maes y Gawnen	SN/8913
<i>cefn</i>	ridge	Cefn-y-parc	SN/9928
<i>celli</i>	grove, copse	Gelli-ffynhonnau	SN/9510
<i>celynnen</i> , pl. <i>celyn</i>	holly	Llwyncelyn	SO/2624
<i>ceunant</i>	ravine, gorge, brook	Ceunant	SO/1528
<i>cigfran</i>	raven	Cwar y Gigfran	SO/0619
<i>cil</i> , pl. <i>ciliau</i>	corner, retreat	Cilhepste	SN/9210
<i>cilfach</i>	corner, nook	Penygilfach	SO/2419
<i>clawdd</i>	hedge, ditch, dyke	Clawdd Coch	SO/0723
<i>clog</i> , pl. <i>clogau</i>	crag, cliff	Clogau Mawr	SN/7119
<i>clun</i>	meadow, brake	Clun-gwyn	SN/9211
<i>clydach</i>	torrent	Cwm Clydach	SO/2012
<i>cnap</i>	knob, lump	Cnapiau	SO/2435
<i>cneuen</i> , pl. <i>cnau</i>	nut	Pont Rhyd-y-cnau	SN/9111
<i>coch</i>	red	Llwyn-coch	SN/9606
<i>coed</i>	wood	Coed y Prior	SO/2909
<i>collen</i>	hazel	Cwrtygollen	SO/2317
<i>comin</i>	common	Comin y Rhos	SN/9109
<i>corlan</i>	sheepfold	Gorlan yr Allt	SO/0615
<i>corn</i>	horn	Corn Du	SO/0021
<i>cors</i>	bog	Plas-y-gors	SN/9215
<i>craig</i> , pl. <i>creigiau</i>	rock	Craig y Fan Ddu	SO/0519
<i>crib</i>	crest, summit	Cribarth	SN/8214
<i>crochan</i>	crock, pot, cauldron	Carnycrochan	SN/9109
<i>croes</i>	cross, cross-roads	Gelli-groes	SN/6520
<i>crug</i> , pl. <i>crugiau</i>	knoll, tump	Pen-y-crug	SO/0330
<i>cwar</i>	quarry	Cwar yr Ystrad	SO/0713
<i>cwm</i>	valley, combe	Cwm-du	SO/1723
<i>cwrt</i>	court	Pant-y-cwrt	SN/8212
<i>cylch</i> , pl. <i>cylchau</i>	circle	Cylchau	SN/7520
<i>dan</i>	under, below	Danydarren	SO/1816
<i>dâr</i> , pl. <i>deri</i>	oak	Deri-fach	SO/2717
<i>dau</i> , fem. <i>dwy</i>	two	Llanddeusant	SN/7724
<i>derwen</i> , pl. <i>derw</i>	oak	Brynderwen	SO/1027
<i>dinas</i>	hill, fortress	Castell Dinas	SO/1730
<i>disgwylfa</i>	viewpoint	Darren Disgwylfa	SO/2114
<i>dôl</i> , pl. <i>dolau</i> , <i>dolydd</i>	meadow	Dôl-y-gaer	SO/0614
<i>draenen</i> , pl. <i>draen</i>	thorn	Pant-y-ddraenen	SO/1317
<i>draw</i>	yonder	Blaenau-draw	SO/1626
<i>du</i> , fem. <i>ddu</i>	black	Rhiw-ddu	SN/7220



			Grid reference
<i>dwfr, dŵr</i> <i>dyffryn</i>	water valley	Pen-y-waun-dŵr Dyffryn Cwannon	SN/9122 SO/1117
<i>eglwys</i> <i>eira</i> <i>eos</i> <i>esgair</i> <i>esgob</i>	church snow nightingale long ridge bishop	Eglwys Faen (cave) Nant yr Eira Llwyn-yr-eos Allt yr Esgair Tarren yr Esgob	SO/1815 SN/9817 SO/1419 SO/1224 SO/2430
<i>ffald, pl. ffaldau</i> <i>ffawydden,</i> <i>pl. ffawydd</i> <i>ffin</i> <i>ffordd</i> <i>ffos</i> <i>ffrwd, pl. ffrydiau</i> <i>ffynnon, pl.</i> <i>ffynhonnau</i>	fold beech  boundary way, road ditch stream, torrent spring, well	Twyn Brynffaldau Ffawydden  Capel-y-ffin Pant-y-ffordd Ffos y Wern Ffrwd-uchaf Pantffynnon	SN/8613 SO/2525  SO/2531 SN/9223 SO/1014 SO/0108 SN/6915
<i>gafr, pl. geifr</i> <i>garth</i> <i>garw</i> <i>glan</i> <i>glas, gleision</i> <i>gleisiad</i> <i>glyn</i> <i>goetre</i> <i>gwaun, pl. gweunydd</i> <i>gwennol</i> <i>gwernen, pl. gwern</i> <i>gwrach</i> <i>gwyllt</i> <i>gwyn, fem. gwen</i> <i>gwynt</i> <i>gwyrlod</i>	goat hill, height, enclosure rough, coarse river-bank, hillock green, blue, grey young salmon glen woodland dwelling moor, mountain pasture swallow alder, alder swamp witch, hag wild white wind meadow	Castell y Geifr Talgarth Tyle Garw Glan-nant Bryn Glas Craig Cerrig-gleisiad Blaen-y-glyn Tiryoetre Gwaun Taf Llwyn-y-wennol Wern Pwll-y-wrach Penwyllt Rhiw Wen Bwlch y Ddauwynt Penyrrwrlod	SN/8216 SO/1533 SN/7716 SO/2219 SO/0411 SN/9621 SO/0617 SN/6418 SO/0120 SN/7521 SO/1117 SO/1732 SN/8415 SN/7319 SN/7817 SO/1828
<i>hafod, hafoty</i> <i>helygen, pl. helyg</i> <i>hen</i> <i>hendref</i> <i>heol, hewl</i> <i>hir, pl. hirion</i>	summer dwelling, shieling willow old winter dwelling, permanent home road long	Hafod  Beilihelyg Hen Bont Hendrebolton  Heol Senni Fan Hir	SN/6621  SO/0427 SN/7423 SN/9211  SN/9223 SN/8319
<i>isaf</i>  <i>llaethdy</i> <i>llan</i> <i>llannerch</i>	lower, lowest  dairy (lit. milk-house) church, enclosure clearing, glade	Mynydd Isaf  Esgairllaethdy Llanfrynach Llannerch-goch	SN/6615  SN/7829 SO/0725 SN/8131

Grid  
reference

<i>llech</i> , pl. <i>llechau</i>	slab, stone, rock	Pont-ar-llechau	SN/7224
<i>llethr</i>	slope	Llethr	SN/9119
<i>llety</i>	small house, shelter	Llety-rhys	SN/9506
<i>llwch</i> , pl. <i>llychau</i>	lake	Cwm Llwh	SO/0024
<i>llwyd</i>	grey, brown	Allt Lwyd	SO/0818
<i>llwyn</i>	grove, bush	Llwynbedw	SO/1429
<i>llyn</i>	lake	Llyn y Fan Fach	SN/7922
<i>llys</i> , pl. <i>llysiau</i>	herbs, berries	Mynydd Llysiau	SO/2028
<i>maen</i> , pl. <i>meini</i>	stone	Maen Mawr	SN/8420
<i>maenol</i> , <i>maenor</i>	chief's house, manor	Faenor	SO/0510
<i>maes</i> , pl. <i>meysydd</i>	field, plain	Maesderwen	SO/0625
<i>mawr</i>	great, big	Taf Fawr	SO/0014
<i>meity</i>	halfway house or halt	Meity	SN/8525
<i>melin</i>	mill	Pont Melin-fach	SN/9000
<i>melindre(f)</i>	mill village	Felindre	SO/0626
<i>melyn</i>	yellow	Bryn Melyn	SN/9219
<i>milwr</i> , pl. <i>milwyr</i>	warrior, soldier	Rhyd y Milwyr	SO/0911
<i>mochyn</i> , pl. <i>moch</i>	pig	Llwyn-y-moch	SN/7414
<i>moel</i>	bare or bald hill	Foel Deg	SN/7315
<i>mynydd</i> , pl. <i>mynyddoedd</i>	mountain, moorland	Mynydd Myddfai	SN/8029
<i>nant</i> , pl. <i>nentydd</i>	brook	Nant Ddu	SO/0015
<i>neuadd</i>	hall	Neuadd Cwmcamlais	SN/9526
<i>newydd</i>	new	Pont Newydd	SN/8828
<i>odyn</i>	kiln	Odyn Fach	SO/0912
<i>ogof</i>	cave	Dan-yr-ogof (farm)	SN/8316
<i>onnen</i> , pl. <i>onn</i> , <i>ynn</i>	ash tree	Llwyn-onn	SO/0111
<i>pandy</i>	fulling mill	Pandy	SO/3322
<i>pant</i> , pl. <i>pantau</i>	hollow, valley	Pant-y-wern	SN/9814
<i>parc</i>	park, field	Parc-mawr	SN/9429
<i>pedal</i>	horseshoe	Cwm Pedol	SN/7016
<i>pedwar</i> , fem. <i>pedair</i>	four	Pempedairheol	SO/2216
<i>pen</i>	head, top, end	Pen y Fan	SO/0121
<i>pentre(f)</i>	village, homestead	Pentre	SO/1826
<i>perfedd</i>	middle	Gwaun Perfedd	SO/0220
<i>perllan</i>	orchard	Berllan	SO/0626
<i>pistyll</i>	spring, well	Nantypistyll	SN/8628
<i>plas</i>	hall, mansion	Plasydarren	SN/9212
<i>pont</i>	bridge	Bont Fawr	SN/7126
<i>porth</i>	gateway, entrance	Porth yr Ogof	SN/9312
<i>pren</i>	wood, wooden	Pontbren Llwyd	SN/9408
<i>pwll</i>	pit, pool	Pwll Coch	SO/1615
<i>pysgodyn</i> , pl. <i>pysgod</i>	fish	Pysgodlyn	SO/2615
<i>rhedyn</i>	bracken, fern	Heol-rhedyn	SN/9314
<i>rhiw</i>	hill, slope	Rhiw y Fan	SO/2134
<i>rhos</i> , pl. <i>rhosydd</i>	moorland	Rhos Fach	SO/1833
<i>rhyd</i>	ford	Pwll y Rhyd	SN/9013

			<i>Grid reference</i>
<i>sain, san, sant, saint</i>	saint	Llansanffraid (Bride)	SO/1123
<i>sarn, pl. sarnau</i>	causeway, old road	Sarn Helen	SN/9012
<i>sticill</i>	stile	Pontsticill	SO/0611
<i>sych</i>	dry	Afon Sychlwch	SN/8122
<i>tafarn, pl. tafarnau</i>	inn	Tafarnygareg	SN/8517
<i>tal</i>	end	Tal-y-maes	SO/2226
<i>tan</i>	end, below	Tanycastell	SN/6618
<i>tarren, pl. tarenni</i>	rock-face, precipice	Darren	SO/2015
<i>tas</i>	rick, stack, heap	Y Das	SO/1932
<i>teg</i>	fair, fine	Bryn-teg	SO/0222
<i>tir</i>	land, territory	Tirduweunydd	SN/9411
<i>tirion</i>	sod, turf, country	Rhos Dirion	SO/2133
<i>tomen</i>	mound	Tomen y Rhos	SN/8029
<i>ton</i>	grassland, ley	Cefn-y-don	SN/9605
<i>tor</i>	break (of slope)	Torpantau	SO/0417
<i>traeth</i>	strand, beach, shore	Traeth Mawr	SN/9625
<i>trallwng</i>	wet bottom land	Trallong	SN/9629
<i>traws</i>	across, transverse, district	Trawslwyn-du	SN/8229
<i>tre(f)</i>	homestead, hamlet, town	Trefeinion	SO/1330
<i>tri, fem. tair</i>	three	Tair Carn Isaf	SN/6816
<i>troed</i>	foot	Mynydd Troed	SO/1728
<i>trum, pl. trumau</i>	ridge	Rhiw Trumau	SO/1929
<i>twrch</i>	boar	Afon Twrch	SN/7614
<i>twyn</i>	hillock, knoll	Twyn Du	SO/2227
<i>ty, pl. tai</i>	house	Tŷ Illtud	SO/0926
<i>tyddyn, ty'n</i>	small farm or holding	Ty'n-y-caeau	SO/0728
<i>tyle</i>	hill, ascent	Tyle Gwyn	SN/7922
<i>tywarch</i>	turf, peat, clod	Waun Dywarch	SN/9515
<i>uchaf</i>	upper, higher, highest	Tŷ-uchaf	SO/2215
<i>uchel</i>	high	Gellibenuchel	SN/9506
<i>y, yr, 'r</i>	the	Penisa'rpentre	SO/0128
<i>ych, pl. ychen</i>	ox	Nantyrchen	SO/2424
<i>yngys</i>	island, assart	Ynys-fawr	SN/8528
<i>ysgyfarnog</i>	hare	Rhiw yr Ysgyfarnog	SO/0119
<i>ystrad</i>	valley-floor, strath	Ystradfellte	SN/9213



# APPENDIX II

## *Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Park*

BRECONSHIRE  
(The parish name appears first)

BURIAL MOUNDS AND MEGALITHIC MONUMENTS

*Grid  
reference*

Cantref, Cefn Esgair-carnau round cairns	SN/975135
Cathedine, Cefn Moel round barrows	SO/156237
Crickhowell, Gwernvale burial chamber	SO/208193
Llaneleu, Ffostyll long barrows	SO/179349
Llanfeugan, Gileston standing stone	SO/116235
Llanfihangel Cwm-du, Bwlch round cairn	SO/154229
Llanfihangel Cwm-du, Llwyn-y-fedwen standing stone	SO/156204
Llanfihangel Cwm-du, Mynydd Llan-gors cairn	SO/166261
Llanfihangel Cwm-du, Penymyarth standing stone	SO/183199
Llangattock, Garn Goch	SO/212177
Llangenni, Cwrt-y-gollen standing stone	SO/234167
Llangenni, standing stone N. of Golden Grove	SO/240178
Llanhamlach, Tŷ Illtud long barrow	SO/098264
Llanigon, Blaenau burial chamber	SO/239373
Llanigon, Penywyrld long barrow	SO/225398
Llanigon, Twyn y Beddau	SO/241386
Penderyn, Cadair Fawr round cairns	SN/977122
Penderyn, Cefn Sychbant round cairns	SN/986110
Penderyn, Nant Maden round cairn	SN/971106
Penderyn, Onllwyn round cairns	SO/002091
Penderyn, Pant Sychbant round cairn and enclosures	SN/996098
Penderyn, Penmailard round cairns	SO/012097
Senni, Maen Llia	SN/924192
Senni, round barrow S.S.W. of Maen Llia	SN/923189
Talgarth, Cwmfforest long barrow	SO/183291
Talgarth, Mynydd Troed long barrow	SO/162284
Talgarth, Pen Trumau round cairns	SO/196293
Talgarth, Tŷ-isaf long barrow	SO/182291
Traean-glas, Cerrig Duon stone circle	SN/851206
Traean-glas, Gwernwyddog standing stone	SN/833283
Traean-glas, Mynydd Bach Tre Castell round cairn	SN/830310
Traean-glas, Mynydd Bach Tre Castell stone circles	SN/833311
Traean-glas, Nant Tarw stone circles	SN/819258
Vaynor, Darren round cairn	SO/017100
Ystradgynlais Higher, Saith Maen	SN/833154

### CAMPS

Brecon, Pen-y-crug	SO/028303
Brecon, Slwch camp	SO/056285

	<i>Grid reference</i>
Cantref, Plas-y-gaer camp	SO/033246
Cray, Y Gaer, Twyn y Gaer	SN/922263
Llanbedr Ystradyw, Crucywel camp	SO/225207
Llanddeti, Y Gaer, Dôl-y-gaer	SO/060148
Llanddeti, Tump Wood camp	SO/112215
Llanfihangel Cwm-du, Coed-y-gaer	SO/176240
Llanfihangel Cwm-du, Myarth camp	SO/172208
Llanfrynach, Coed-y-caerau camp	SO/069240
Llangattock, Ffawyddog Gaer	SO/195184
Llangenni, camp $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N.E. of Crickhowell (Coed Cefn camp)	SO/228186
Llansanffraid and Llangasty Tal-y-llyn, Allt yr Esgair camp	SO/125245
Penderyn, Craig y Dinas hill-fort	SN/913080
Penpont, Twyn y Gaer	SN/990280
Talgarth camp	SO/155326
Y Fenni-fach, Coed Fenni-fach camp	SO/013295

## ROMAN REMAINS

Llanfihangel Cwm-du, Roman fort at Pen-y-gaer	SO/169219
Traean-glas, Y Pigwn	SN/827312
Y Fenni-fach, Y Gaer, Brecon	SO/002296
Ystradfellte, Roman camp N.E. of Maen Madoc	SN/923163
Ystradfellte, section of road N.E. of Coelbren Fort	SN/866110

## CROSSES AND INSCRIBED STONES

Cantref, Nant Crew inscribed stone, now in Cefn Coed church	SN/992167
Llanddeti, Pontsticill inscribed stone (inside church)	SO/073131
Llanfihangel Cwm-du, inscribed stone, now in church wall	SO/181239
Llanhamlach, cross-slab, now in church	SO/090264
Llansanffraid, Victorinus stone, now in Brecknock Museum	SO/111249
Llansbyddyd, cross-slab in churchyard	SO/012281
Patrishow, churchyard cross, St. Issau's church	SO/279224
Ystradfellte, Maen Madoc	SN/918158

## CASTLES

Aberysgir castle mound	SO/000296
Brecon Castle	SO/042288
Brecon, castle mound $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N.N.W. of Ty'n-y-caeau	SO/069295
Brecon Town Wall at Watton Mount	SO/049284
Cathedine, Castell Blaenllynfi	SO/146229
Crickhowell Castle	SO/217183
Crickhowell, Maescelyn castle mound	SO/206195
Hay Castle	SO/228424
Hay Urban, castle mound near Swan Hotel	SO/226422
Llanelly, Battle Tump	SO/225154
Llanfihangel Cwm-du, Tretower Castle	SO/184213
Llangasty Tal-y-llyn, Twmpnan castle mound	SO/126257
Llangattock, Hen Castell	SO/212166
Maescar, Castell-du, Sennybridge	SN/919284
Maescar, Cwm Camlais Castle	SN/955261
Modrydd, Cilwhybert castle mound	SO/014268

Grid  
reference

Talgarth, Castell Dinas	SO/179301
Talgarth, Cefn Barn ring motte	SO/145315
Talgarth, Trefeca castle mound	SO/142323
Traean-mawr, Trecaste mound and bailey castle	SN/882292
Vaynor, Cae Burdydd	SO/047102
Ystradfellte, Castell Coch	SN/935145

## MEDIEVAL DOMESTIC

Crickhowell, Porth Mawr	SO/217186
Llanfihangel Cwm-du, Tretower Barn	SO/186212
Llanfihangel Cwm-du, Tretower Court	SO/185212
Llansbyddydd, earthwork 730 yards W. of Dan-y-cefn	SO/008270
Talgarth, Porthamal Tower	SO/159352
Talgarth, Trefeca-fawr moated site	SO/143318

## BRIDGES

Brecon Bridge	SO/042286
Crickhowell Bridge	SO/214182

## MISCELLANEOUS

Llanelly, Clydach iron works (remains of)	SO/229132
Llanelly, iron furnace S.W. of Clydach House	SO/232137
Llan-gors, Crannog in Llangorse Lake	SO/129269
Ystradfellte, pillow mounds at Pant Mawr	SN/885133

## CARMARTHENSHIRE

## BURIAL MOUNDS AND MEGALITHIC MONUMENTS

Llanddeusant, standing stone and round cairns S. of Tyle-pengam	SN/765226
Llandeilo Fawr Rural, Bryngwyn standing stone	SN/671224
Llangadog, Carn Pen-rhiw-ddu	SN/727189
Llangadog, standing stone S. of Llwyn-du farm	SN/675244
Myddfai, Mynydd Myddfai standing stones	SN/806284

## CAMPS

Llandingad Without, Ynys-y-borde earthwork	SN/792347
Llangadog, Carn Goch camp	SN/690244
Llangadog, Llwyn-du camp	SN/680246

## ROMAN REMAINS

Llanddeusant, Arosfa Garreg-lwyd Roman camp	SN/802263
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## ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDINGS

Llandeilo Fawr Rural, Capel Dewi	SN/659178
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## CASTLES

Llandeilo Fawr Rural, Carreg Cennen Castle	SN/668191
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## MISCELLANEOUS

Llandeilo Fawr Rural, Beddau'r Derwyddon	SN/674181
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## MONMOUTHSHIRE

## CAMPS

Crucorney Fawr, Pen-twyn earthwork	SO/321231
Crucorney Fawr, Twyn y Gaer	SO/294220

## CROSSES

Crucorney Fawr, Cwmyoy churchyard cross	SO/299233
Llanfoist Fawr, Llanwenarth churchyard cross base	SO/275148

## ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDINGS

Crucorney Fawr, Llanthony Priory	SO/288279
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## CASTLES

Crucorney Fawr, The Moat mound and bailey castle	SO/330218
Llantilio Pertholey, Pen-y-clawdd castle mound	SO/311201

Detailed lists of ancient monuments and buildings of special architectural or historic interest may be consulted at the County Planning Offices or at the Park's information centres.

The scheduling of an ancient monument does not imply right of access.

## APPENDIX III

### *Some Useful Addresses*

#### ANGLING AND BOATING

THE Park extends into the areas of four River Authorities. It is necessary to have a licence to fish from the appropriate authority as well as the permission of the owner of the particular fishing rights. The Clerk of the River Authority is generally able to supply details of angling associations and local licence distributors, as well as copies of bye-laws.

GLAMORGAN RIVER AUTHORITY, Tremains House, Coychurch Road, Bridgend, Glam.

*Beacons, Cantref, Llwyn-onn Reservoirs:* City of Cardiff Corporation Waterworks, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff, CF1 3LB. Fishing. Sailing on Beacons Reservoir, education authorities only.

*Rivers Hepste, Mellte, Nedd, Pyrddin, Taf Fawr, Taf Fechan:* Some fishing available.

*Taf Fechan Reservoirs (Neuadd, Pentwyn Pontsticill):* Taf Fechan Water Board, Pentwyn Road, Nelson, Glam. Fishing. Sailing on Pontsticill Reservoir, Merthyr Tydfil Sailing Club only (Hon. Sec., E. Roberts, 9 Gwaelodygarth Close, Merthyr Tydfil, Glam).

*Ystradfellte Reservoir:* West Glamorgan Water Board, 86 The Kingsway, Swansea, Glam. Fishing.

SOUTH WEST WALES RIVER AUTHORITY, Penyfai House, Penyfai Lane, Llanelli, Carm. s.

*Rivers Tawe, Towy, and tributaries:* Some fishing available.

USK RIVER AUTHORITY, The Croft, Goldcroft Common, Caerleon, Newport, Mon.

*Cray and Usk Reservoirs:* West Glamorgan Water Board, 86 The Kingsway, Swansea, Glam. Fishing.

*Llangorse Lake:* Fishing, boating, sailing. Boats for hire at lakeside, Llangorse Sailing Club (Hon. Sec., P. J. Jones, 5 Vineyard Road, Hampton Park, Hereford).

*Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal:* Fishing permits and boating licences: British Waterways Board, Canal Office, Govilon, Abergavenny, Mon. Boats for hire at Gilwern, Goytre Wharf, and Llanfoist. Govilon Boat Club (Hon. Sec., W. R. Bayley, Tower House, Tower Hill, Penarth, Glam).

*River Usk:* Some fishing available. Boats for hire at Brecon Promenade.

- Talybont Reservoir*: Gwent Water Board, Market Buildings, 191-192 Dock Street, Newport, Mon, NPT 1RT. Fishing.
- WYE RIVER AUTHORITY*, 4 St. John Street, Hereford.
- River Honddu*: Some fishing available.
- River Wye*: Some fishing available. Canoes for hire at Glasbury.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETIES, MUSEUMS

- Abergavenny Arts Group*: Hon. Sec., Mrs. I. Hanbury, Willow Croft, Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny.
- Abergavenny Museum*: The Castle, Abergavenny.
- Brecknock County Naturalists' Trust*: Hon. Sec., H. M. Budgen, The Byddwn, Llanhamlach, Brecon.
- Brecknock Museum*, Glamorgan Street, Brecon.
- Brecknock Society*: Joint Secretaries: Miss A. B. Jones, c/o Brecknock Museum, Glamorgan Street, Brecon, and Onfel Thomas, Lluest, Rhosferig Road, Builth Wells.
- Brecon Railway Society*: Chairman, A. W. Leonard, The Friars, Camden Road, Brecon.
- Breconshire Conservation Committee*: c/o Breconshire Rural Community Council, 5 Glamorgan Street, Brecon.
- Cambrian Archaeological Association*: Local Secretaries: (Breconshire) The Rev. J. Jones-Davies, Llywel Vicarage, Trecastle and D. P. Webley, 39 Heol Isaf, Radyr, nr. Cardiff; (Carmarthenshire) Major Francis Jones, Hendre, Springfield Road, Carmarthen; (Monmouthshire) Cefni Barnett, Museum and Art Gallery, Newport, and Miss Maxwell Frazer, Crowthorne, 21 Dolphin Road, Slough, Bucks.
- Carmarthen Museum*, Quay Street, Carmarthen.
- Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society and Field Club*, The Museum, Carmarthen.
- Council for British Archaeology, Welsh Group*: Hon. Sec., C. J. Spurgeon, 10 Camlad Cottages, Chirbury, Montgomery.
- Friends of Brecon Cathedral*: Hon. Sec., M. E. P. Thomas, Oakfield, Maescelyn, Brecon.
- Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Society*: Hon. Sec., Mrs. J. V. L. Leslie, Rhiwlas Cottage, Raglan, Mon.
- Monmouthshire County Naturalists' Trust*: Hon. Sec., A. T. Sawyer, 40 Melbourne Way, Newport.
- Monmouthshire Local History Society*: Hon. Sec., A. W. Davies, 8 Pentonville, Newport.
- National Museum of Wales*, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NP, and Folk Museum, St. Fagans, Cardiff.
- West Wales Naturalists' Trust*: Gen. Sec., Dillwyn Miles, 4 Victoria Place, Haverfordwest, Pembs.



## CAMPING

*Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland*: 11 Lower Grosvenor Place, London, SW1 WoEY.

*Caravan Club*: Headquarters: 65 South Molton Street, London, W1Y 2AB.

## CAVING

*British Speleological Association*, Duke Street, Settle, Yorks.

*Cambrian Cave Registry*: Hon. Sec., N. Christopher, Oriel Lodge, Gentle Street, Frome, Somerset.

*Cambrian Caving Council*: Hon. Sec., c/o South Wales Caving Club, Powell Street, Penwyllt, SA9 1GQ.

*Hereford Caving Club*: Hon. Sec., I. Kelly, 37 Highfields Road, Malvern.

*South Wales Caving Club*: 1-10 Powell Street, Penwyllt, Ystradgynlais (rescue equipment there: contact local police who can call out this and other teams).

## COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL WALES

*Headquarters and General Secretary*, S. R. J. Meade, Meifod, Montgomeryshire, SY22 6DA.

*Breconshire Branch*: Hon. Sec., H. L. Matthews, The Old Post Office, Talybont-on-Usk, Brecon.

*Carmarthenshire Branch*: Hon. Sec., D. J. Keir, Garth Moor, Church Street, Llanstephan.

*Monmouthshire Branch*: Hon. Sec., A. W. Davies, 8 Pentonville, Newport.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

*Headquarters*: 2 Old Queen Street, Westminster, London, SW1.

*Secretary for Wales*: 9 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF1 9HA.

*Local Assessment Panel*: Hon. Sec., D. Rossiter, The Woodlands, 33 Newport Road, Penteg, Pontypool, Mon, PP4 5NU.

## FORESTRY COMMISSION

*Welsh Headquarters and South Wales Conservancy*: Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF1 4TU.

*District Offices*: Boughrood House, The Struet, Brecon; Market Hall, Llandovery, Carms; Plas Newydd, London Road, Neath, Glam.

## HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP LTD.

*Headquarters*: 142 Great North Way, Hendon, London, NW4 1EG.

Tregoyd Guest House, Three Cocks, Brecon.

## MOTORING

*A.A. Headquarters:* Fanum House, Leicester Square, London, WC2A 7LY.

*A.A. Area Office:* Fanum House, Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF1 9XN.

*A.A. Boxes at* Bronllys (Talgarth 221), Nantyllyn (Crickhowell 235), Storey Arms (Merthyr Tydfil 3160) and Tarell Bridge (Brecon 2015).

*R.A.C. Headquarters:* 83 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HW.

*R.A.C. Area Office:* 202 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF2 1YR.

*R.A.C. Boxes:* Brecon Beacons on A 470 (Brecon 2049); Pontybat on A 438 (Talgarth 316); Abergavenny (Abergavenny 3039).

## MOUNTAINEERING

*British Mountaineering Council:* 26 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EE.

*South Wales Mountaineering Club:* Hon. Sec., c/o Taff's Well Inn, Taff's Well, Cardiff.

*South Wales Mountain Rescue Association:* Hon. Sec., E. Bartlett, Ty'n-y-caeau Youth Hostel, Brecon (Llanfrynach 270).

*Mountain Rescue:* Telephone the police who can call out trained teams.

## NATIONAL PARK

*Countryside Commission:* 1 Cambridge Gate, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4JY.

*Brecon Beacons National Park Joint Advisory Committee:* Clerk: T. F. G. Young, New County Hall, Brecon.

*Breconshire County Planning Officer:* P. R. H. S. Holbourn, 6 Glamorgan Street, Brecon.

*Carmarthenshire County Planning Officer:* R. L. Randles, County Offices, Carmarthen.

*Monmouthshire County Planning Officer:* James Kegie, County Hall, Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran, Mon (from autumn 1972).

*National Park Information Centres:* 6 Glamorgan Street, Brecon (Brecon 2763); Monk Street, Abergavenny, Mon (Abergavenny 3254); Brecon Beacons Mountain Centre, Libanus, Brecon (Brecon 3366); 8 Broad Street, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire (Llandovery 693).

## NATIONAL TRUST

*Area Agent:* W. Griffith, Napier House, Spilman Street, Carmarthen.

## NATURE CONSERVANCY

*Headquarters:* 19 Belgrave Square, London, SW1.

*South Wales Regional Office:* Plas Gogerddan, nr. Aberystwyth, Cards.

## PONY-TREKKING

*The Pony-Trekking Society of Wales:* P.O. Box No. 1, Builth Wells, Brecs.

## RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

*Headquarters:* 1-4 Crawford Mews, London, W1H 1PT.

*South Wales Area:* Hon. Sec., D. S. Parkhouse, 66 Wesley Street, Cwmbran, Mon.

## RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS

*Breconshire:* 4 Lion Street, Brecon.

*Carmarthenshire:* 3rd Floor, Darkgate, Carmarthen.

*Monmouthshire:* 8 Pentonville, Newport.

## WALES TOURIST BOARD

*Headquarters:* Welcome House, High Street, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF1 2YZ.

*South Wales Tourism Council:* Darkgate, Carmarthen.

## YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

*Brecon Federation County Organiser:* Miss V. Jones, 8 Ship Street, Brecon.

*Carmarthenshire Federation County Organiser:* S. Evans, Agriculture House, 32 Cambrian Place, Carmarthen.

*Monmouthshire Federation County Organiser:* Miss D. Williams, Monmouthshire College of Agriculture, Usk, Mon, NP5 1XJ.

## YOUTH HOSTELS

*Headquarters:* Trevelyan House, 8 St. Stephen's Hill, St. Albans, Herts.

*Regional Office:* 35 Park Place, Cardiff, CF1 3BB.

*Hostels in the Brecon Beacons National Park:*

*Capel-y-ffin:* King George VI Memorial Hostel, Capel-y-ffin, Abergavenny. O.S. 141/250328.

*Crickhowell:* Ivy Towers, Tower Street, Crickhowell. O.S. 141/217183.

*Llanddeusant:* The Old Red Lion, Llanddeusant, Llangadog, Carms. O.S. 140/776245.

*Llwyn-y-celyn, near Libanus, Brecon.* O.S. 141/973225.

*Ty'n-y-caeau:* Ty'n-y-caeau, Brecon. O.S. 141/073288.

*Ystradfellte:* Tai'r Heol, Ystradfellte, Aberdare. O.S. 141/925127.



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## *The Country Code*

### GUARD AGAINST ALL RISK OF FIRE

*Plantations, woodlands and heaths are highly inflammable: every year acres burn because of casually dropped matches, cigarette ends or pipe ash.*

### FASTEN ALL GATES

*Even if you found them open. Animals can't be told to stay where they're put. A gate left open invites them to wander, a danger to themselves, to crops and to traffic.*

### KEEP DOGS UNDER PROPER CONTROL

*Farmers have good reason to regard visiting dogs as pests; in the country a civilized town dog can become a savage. Keep your dog on a lead wherever there is livestock about, also on country roads.*

### KEEP TO THE PATHS ACROSS FARM LAND

*Crops can be ruined by people's feet. Remember that grass is a valuable crop too, sometimes the only one on the farm. Flattened corn or hay is very difficult to harvest.*

### AVOID DAMAGING FENCES, HEDGES AND WALLS

*They are expensive items in the farm's economy; repairs are costly and use scarce labour. Keep to recognized routes, using gates and stiles.*

### LEAVE NO LITTER

*All litter is unsightly, and some is dangerous as well. Take litter home for disposal; in the country it costs a lot to collect it.*

### SAFEGUARD WATER SUPPLIES

*Your chosen walk may well cross a catchment area for the water supply of millions. Avoid polluting it in any way. Never interfere with cattle troughs.*

### PROTECT WILD LIFE, WILD PLANTS AND TREES

*Wild life is best observed, not collected. To pick or uproot flowers, carve trees and rocks, or disturb wild animals and birds, destroys other people's pleasure as well.*



## GO CAREFULLY ON COUNTRY ROADS

*Country roads have special dangers: blind corners, high banks and hedges, slow-moving tractors and farm machinery or animals. Motorists should reduce their speed and take extra care; walkers should keep to the right, facing oncoming traffic.*

## RESPECT THE LIFE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

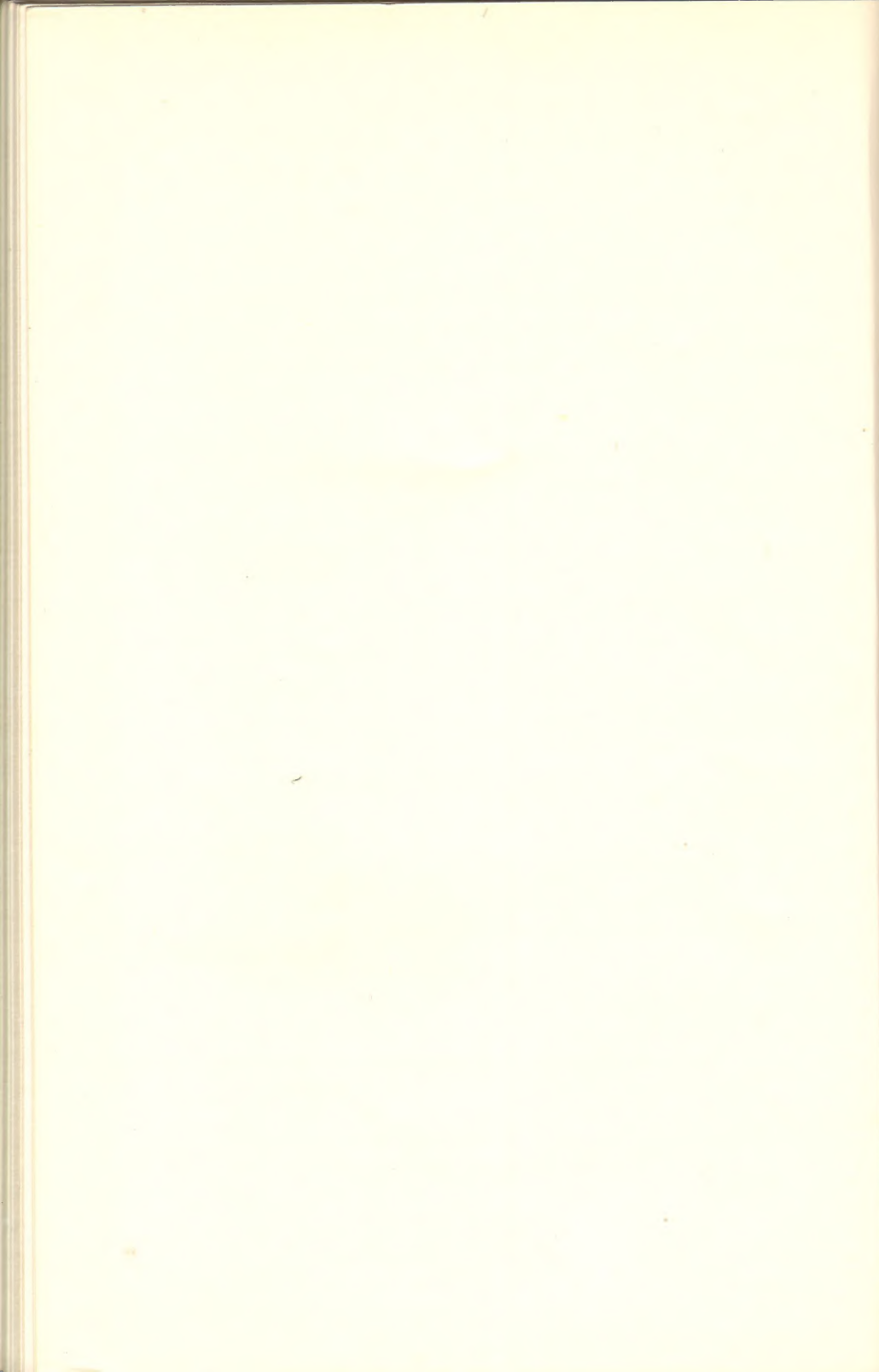
*Set a good example and try to fit in with the life and work of the countryside. This way good relations are preserved and those who follow are not regarded as enemies.*

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